

WEST YORKSHIRE INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

ITA EXECUTIVE BOARD

DATE: 29 JANUARY 2010

AGENDA ITEM NO: 7

SUBJECT: USE OF WELL BEING POWERS

Report of the Passenger Transport Executive

1. MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION

- 1.1. Use of Well Being powers in accordance with the ITA decision of 19th June 2009.

2. INFORMATION

- 2.1. The Authority meeting of 19th June 2009 approved a policy for the general use of the Well Being power to provide financial assistance to third parties for the support or provision of bus services, with the implementation being overseen by the Tendered Services Working Group. This general approval was subject to a cap of maximum total expenditure in any financial year of £50,000 and a maximum single payment of £5,000. Expenditure beyond these parameters would require specific further approval of the Authority.
- 2.2. The Tendered Services Working Group meeting of 28th January considered a report setting out the success of the Dalesbus services in 2009. Patronage of the Dalesbus network in 2009 was 34% greater than in 2008. Almost 22,000 passengers, an average of 80 per day used the Metro branded services at a subsidy cost to Metro of less than £1 per trip. Passenger feedback from West Yorkshire residents was very positive.
- 2.3. The report to the Tendered Services Working Group therefore recommends a further grant (to the Dales and Bowland Community Interest Company) of £21,000 for 2010. This grant would again secure free travel for MetroCard holders and discounts for young people on the above services together with joint branding. It would also support the continued operation of the summer holidays Wednesday only service from Bradford and Shipley to Malham, which in 2009 was successfully targeted at encouraging people from inner city communities to get out into the countryside.
- 2.4. This grant is above the cap of £5,000 for a single item of expenditure approved by the Authority in June 2009 and therefore requires the approval of the Executive Board.

2.5. The report to the Tendered Services Working Group also recognises the value of a longer term funding commitment in order to facilitate service development over a longer period also recommends further grants in 2011 and 2012 provided the other funding partners also commit to a three year strategy. Progress in respect of this will be reported to a future meeting of the Board.

3. FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1. The proposed grant can be accommodated within the proposed budget for 2010/11.

3.2. This form of financial assistance requires use by the Authority of the Well Being power conferred under the 2008 Local Transport Act

4. STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

4.1. None.

5. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IMPLICATIONS

5.1. None.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1. That the ITA Executive Board approve a grant of £21,000 for the provision of Dales Bus Services in 2010 through its use of Well Being powers under Section 99 of the Local Transport Act 2008.

Director General
West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive