

WEST YORKSHIRE INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

**AT A MEETING OF THE TENDERED SERVICES WORKING GROUP
HELD AT WELLINGTON HOUSE, LEEDS ON
THURSDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2010**

PRESENT: Councillor G Lowe (Chair)

Councillors Y Crewe, E Firth, A Pinnock and K Watson

66. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no personal or prejudicial interests declared by members.

67. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 January 2010 be approved.

68. AWARD OF TENDERS FOR BUS SERVICES - WAKEFIELD DISTRICT

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive regarding the award of contracts for tender Batches 517, 518 and 519 issued for bus services in the Wakefield district. The services concerned also extended into the Leeds and Kirklees areas.

Batch 517 - Wakefield - Denby Dale - Holmfirth

It was advised that of the two bids submitted the cheapest bid had been from Centrebus. This represented a 15% reduction in the current annual cost of the Batch. The bid was subject to several minor adjustments to the specified timetable, which members noted could be accepted without any significant impact on passengers.

Batch 518 - Morley - Rothwell - Castleford

It was reported that of the three bids submitted the cheapest bid received had been from Arriva, representing a 17% reduction in the current annual cost of the Batch.

Batch 519 - Wakefield - Garforth - Wetherby/Castleford

Members noted that only Arriva had submitted a bid to operate this service group, which had resulted in an increase of 24% on the current annual cost of the Batch. It was acknowledged that it was comparatively expensive to provide the service in its current form due to the high resource cost

necessitating the operation of three vehicles. Post tender negotiations had been held with Arriva who had agreed to reduce their bid, thus reducing the increase in costs to 16.8% and bringing the cost per mile down to an average level for this type of service.

Members agreed to award the contracts to the lowest bidders, Centrebus and Arriva, as set out above.

RESOLVED - That the award of contracts, as detailed in the submitted report, be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policies for the provision of local bus services.

69. GRANT FUNDING FOR DALESBUS AND WORTH VALLEY SERVICES

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive regarding support for the operation of bus services linking West Yorkshire and the Yorkshire Dales and for linking tourist attractions in the Worth Valley.

Dalesbus

Members were advised that in 2009 Metro provided a grant of £20,000 to the Dales and Bowland Community Interest Company to secure the operation of Sunday and Bank Holiday services. These services were outlined in the report. The grant also secured free travel for MetroCard holders and discounts for young people on the services together with joint branding. It was reported that in 2009 compared to the previous year the Dalesbus network had experienced a 34% increase in passenger numbers, equating to a subsidy per passenger trip of less than £1. Given the success of the services it was agreed that Metro continue to support the network in 2010 in the form of a grant of £20,000 to the Dales and Bowland Community Interest Company. In order to develop a longer term vision for the services, Metro had instituted discussions with North Yorkshire County Council and Yorkshire National Park to develop a 3 year plan for the network. This would involve a 3 year commitment from Metro to fund the Dalesbus services between 2010 and 2013 if a similar commitment was forthcoming from the other two funding partners.

Dales Experience Service

In 2009 the Community Interest Company piloted the operation of a Wednesday only service from Bradford and Shipley to Malham during the summer holidays. The service was in addition to those co-funded by Metro. It was successful carrying an average of 102 passengers per day. The Working Group, therefore, agreed that Metro provide a grant of £1,000 towards the Dales Experience on a trial basis in 2010.

Worth Valley

Service 812 was a Sunday seasonal service connecting visitors to Bronte themed attractions around the Worth Valley. The timetable was designed to connect with the Worth Valley Railway and other bus services in the area. Service 812 had been well used in previous years and supported by a small grant from the West Yorkshire Rural Transport Partnership. As the service was no longer eligible for this funding in 2009 Metro provided a grant of £1,000 to the Worth Valley Joint Transport Committee to secure the operation of Service 812 for summer 2009. The Working Group, therefore, agreed to make the same level of financial contribution for 2010.

RESOLVED - That the allocation of grants, as detailed in the submitted report, be noted.

70. MYBUS FARES

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive regarding the approach to be adopted to the setting of future Mybus fare levels.

Members were advised of the background leading to the setting of fare levels, which had been maintained until January 2009. At that time primary fares had increased to 60p per journey or a £5 for a weekly ticket and secondary fares had increased by 10p per journey across the board. It was also recognised that some anomalies/discrepancies between some fare levels and those on comparable journeys on other schools services did exist and required resolving.

Metro's market research had identified the need for simplicity in ticketing, which would be best achieved by the application of a flat fare, although further work was required to evaluate the risks.

The setting of Yellow Bus fares must have regard to those on other commercial services operating in the area. It was, therefore, undesirable to reduce fares to a single flat fare at this time due to the current difficult financial climate and negative impact on Metro's budget. It was, therefore, agreed to bring any fares under 70p up to 70p flat fare from September 2010. Fare increases would be applied each September, as appropriate, with the intention of gradually bringing all fares up to a single flat fare for all Yellow Bus services.

RESOLVED - That the Yellow Bus fares policy be noted.