

WEST YORKSHIRE INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

DATE: 27 MARCH 2009

AGENDA ITEM NO: **24**

SUBJECT: AWARD OF GRANT – DALESBUS

Report of the Passenger Transport Executive

1. **MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 1.1. Support for bus services linking West Yorkshire and the Yorkshire Dales.

2. **INFORMATION**

- 2.1. Dalesbus services are jointly commissioned from the Yorkshire Dales Society by the Yorkshire Dales National Park and North Yorkshire County Council to provide access to the Dales from key rail and bus interchange points such as Skipton and Ilkley. Metro has in the past supported the initiative providing timetable booklets and supporting promotional activities. In 2008 Metro contributed to the cost of the operation of Sunday service 784/884 (Ilkley – Skipton) with the intention that this would support the Society in establishing the service in the longer term.
- 2.2. The Local Transport Act 2008 and associated Governance reviews sets a new environment for Integrated Transport Authorities and for a more strategic view of cross-boundary issues. The overall Dalesbus network offers an attractive and effective means by which West Yorkshire people can access the National Park by public transport whether by 784/884 from Ilkley or by rail from Skipton.
- 2.3. It is therefore proposed that a grant of £20,000 be offered to The Dales and Bowland Community Interest Company (a Social Enterprise Company owned by the Yorkshire Dales Society) which will secure operation of the following Sunday and Bank Holiday services incorporating free travel for MetroCard holders and discounts for young people;
 - Ilkley – Draughton/Bolton Abbey – Skipton – Malham 3 return journeys to Malham
 - Seacroft – Leeds – Otley – Pateley Bridge – Fountains Abbey – Lightwater Valley
 - Seacroft – Leeds – Otley – Ilkley – Aysgarth – Hawes
 - Wakefield – Leeds – Ilkley – Grassington – Buckden – Malham
 - Bradford – Ilkley (feeder timed to interchange with above services)

- 2.4. The Authority does not have any specific power to award such a Grant. However, under Section 99 of the Local Transport Act 2008 the Authority using its well-being powers can give financial assistance by way of a grant where it considers that the Grant would achieve one or more of the objectives in Section 99(1) of the Act. These are:
- (a) the promotion or improvement of the economic well-being of the ITA's area;
 - (b) the promotion or improvement of the social well-being of its area;
 - (c) the promotion or improvement of the environmental well-being of its area.
- 2.5. These powers also enable the Authority to do anything which might benefit any person or area outside of the ITA area if the Authority considers it will achieve any of the above objectives. Hence the powers can be used to benefit not only West Yorkshire but the wider Leeds City Region area.
- 2.6. It is recommended that the award of the Grant will achieve these objectives in the following manner:
- By encouraging visitors to the Dales, the Grant will promote the economic well being of the Leeds City Region.
 - By facilitating affordable access to the Dales National Park for people without a private car, the Grant will improve the social well being of residents of West Yorkshire who may otherwise be unable to visit the area.
 - By promoting an alternative way of accessing the Dales to the private car, the Grant will reduce traffic congestion and promote environmental well being in West Yorkshire and the Leeds City Region.
- 2.7. It is therefore recommended that the well being powers be used to award a Grant to support the provision of a Sunday and Bank Holiday Dalesbus service in 2009. The performance of this service will be closely monitored and will be reported to the Tendered Services Working Group together with a recommendation regarding support in future years.
- 2.8. It is also recommended that, pursuant to Section 99(7) of the Act, the Authority delegates to the Passenger Transport Executive the power to pay the Grant.

3. FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1. The Grant of £20,000 to the Dales and Bowland Community Interest Company can be funded from the Tendered Services Budget.

3.2. The Authority would exercise its powers under Section 99 of the Transport Act 2009 to award the Grant as detailed in this report.

4. STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

4.1. There are no staffing implications arising from this report.

5. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IMPLICATIONS

5.1. There are no equal opportunity implications arising from this report.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1. That, exercising its powers under Section 99 of the Transport Act 2009, the Authority agrees to provide a grant of £20,000 to the Dales and Bowland Community Interest Company for the operation of Dalesbus services in 2009 as detailed in this report.

6.2. That, pursuant to Section 99(7) of the Act, the payment of the grant be delegated to the Passenger Transport Executive.

6.3. That a further report be presented to the Tendered Services Working Group detailing the performance of Dalesbus services in 2009 and considering appropriate action in future years.

Director General
West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive