

**WEST YORKSHIRE INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AUTHORITY**

**AT A JOINT MEETING OF THE BUS AND TENDERED SERVICES WORKING  
GROUPS HELD IN WELLINGTON HOUSE ON  
FRIDAY 10 JULY 2009**

**PRESENT:** Councillor D Congreve (Chair)

Councillors E Firth, G Phelps, A Pinnock and P Wadsworth

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Downes, C Greaves and P McBride.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no personal or prejudicial interests declared by members.

**3. REVIEW OF TENDERED SERVICES**

The Working Groups considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the progress of Metro's review of tendered bus services.

A presentation was given highlighting the current progress of the review of tendered services together with the next steps, which had been categorised into three action areas; reporting, competition and development activities. Members were advised that the review had considered how tendering strategies could mitigate some of the economic impacts on bus services. Members noted the current priorities in relation to specifying service invitations to tender, evaluation and award of contracts.

The Working Groups endorsed proposals for additional value for money appraisal information in future reports.

Members recognised that the overall level of tenders received was very low and welcomed the following actions to encourage competition:-

- (a)** Build upon the provisions contained in the new conditions of contract to encourage better value from the award of longer term contracts.
- (b)** Provide Metro owned vehicles in certain circumstances, for the operation of wholly tendered services.
- (c)** Seek to develop supplier capacity through support for small operators (SMEs) and the voluntary/community transport sector.

- (d) Provide for the guidance of prospective tenderers the estimated annual patronage of wholly tendered services.
- (e) Area wide reviews be undertaken of service provision to develop network solutions that ensured daytime tendered services best complemented the commercial network.
- (f) Ensure that the tender Batches issued were tailored to encourage operator competition.
- (g) More rigorous appraisal of the cost of 'incremental' tendered journeys within the context of the overall commercial performance of the service throughout the day.

It was also explained that there was also a need to develop an approach, which would incorporate the following:

- (a) To investigate how the new powers in the Local Transport Act, which would enable Metro to purchase and lease buses to operators might be used to improve the quality and value for money of bus services.
- (b) To consider how the social benefits of the service could be better identified and how a prioritisation of benefits might be introduced.
- (c) To consider how accessibility planning tools could assist in the evaluation of the social benefits of tendered service provision.

Members were also advised that Metro was carrying out further work on the review of the current tendered services policy with regard to the replacement of deregistered commercial services, the development of a strategy for tendered bus services, which aligned more closely with the City Region's transport policies and the use of the Authority's well being powers.

**RESOLVED -**

- (a) That the progress to date on the review of the Authority's tendered bus services be noted.
- (b) That the next steps in the review, as detailed in the submitted report, be endorsed.
- (c) That a further progress report on the review be prepared for a joint meeting of the Bus and Tendered Services Working Groups.

**4. QUALITY PARTNERSHIP SCHEME PHASE 1**

Consideration was given to a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on progress made with regard to the implementation of Phase I of the Quality Partnership Scheme in West Yorkshire. It was reported that implementation

of Quality Partnerships would be carried out in a phased approach, which involved in the first instance a 'light touch' approach across the whole of West Yorkshire aimed at bringing all operators up to minimum standard requirements.

Members were informed that some of the key requirements of the 'light touch' scheme included:

- Punctuality Improvement Partnerships
- Driver Training
- Notification of Fare Change
- Cleanliness
- Customer Complaints Processing

It was reported that the draft scheme would be issued to all operators at the end of July for informal consultation, with a view to commencing the formal consultation process in September 2009. Following a 13 week period of formal consultation the scheme could then be implemented, if desired, by the ITA in early 2010, which was in line with Department for Transport guidance.

**RESOLVED** - That the report be noted.

## **5. ACCESSBUS REGISTERED SERVICE**

Consideration was given to a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the proposed arrangements for the operation of AccessBus as a registered service from 28 September 2009.

It was reported that the service would be registered as a flexibly routed local bus service under the regulations, which applied to demand responsive services. Members were advised that this would require the registration to include a statement of the days and hours of operation and a map of the area within which the service would be available. The service would be registered to operate on an "anywhere to anywhere" basis within the defined area providing a door to door service.

Comment was also made that five separate registrations would be submitted, one for each of the districts within West Yorkshire and that the service would be operated on a £3.00 per journey flat fare basis (£1.50 for under 16s) between the hours of 0900 and 1800 hours Monday to Friday.

It was mentioned that in view of the fact that the service was now classified as a public bus service it would require the provision of passenger information similar to all other bus services. A service leaflet was being prepared and

would be circulated to existing customers, travel centres and displayed on Metro's website.

**RESOLVED** - That the arrangements for the registration of AccessBus as a local bus service, as detailed in the submitted report, be noted.

## 6. KICKSTART

Consideration was given to a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the following two bids, which had been submitted to the Department for Transport (DfT), which sought to utilise the powers in the Local Transport Act.

Members were informed that the DfT was expected to announce the successful awards in the Autumn 2009.

**Wakefield Partnership** – A voluntary partnership with bus operators in the Wakefield city area involving a redesigned network, integrated fares, unified branding and service quality enhancements.

**Brighouse MetroLocal** – A partnership bid with Calderdale Community Transport to provide a MetroLocal service in Brighouse and Rastrick using the recent changes in the Local Transport Act which enabled Community Transport operators to operate registered local bus services.

**RESOLVED** - That the Kickstart schemes, which had now been submitted to the Department for Transport for consideration, be noted.

## 7. RURAL ACCESS OPPORTUNITIES

Consideration was given to a report of the Passenger Transport Executive setting out details of funding, which had been awarded to Metro under the Yorkshire Forward Rural Access to Opportunities Programme to support transport and accessibility projects.

It was reported that Yorkshire Forward had now approved funding of £573,899 to replace the Rural Transport Partnership, which came to an end in March 2009.

Members were advised that the new 3 year Rural Access to Opportunities Programme, which had been split into the following projects for both capital and revenue grants:

- **Transport Delegated Fund** - To fund small scale transport schemes and projects throughout West Yorkshire, including enhanced local bus services, community transport, car clubs, wheels to work, social car schemes, walking and cycling.

- **Access to Services Delegated Fund** - Improve access to key employment/training services in the rural areas of Leeds and Wakefield.

It was reported that Metro would deliver the programme under a contract with Calderdale MBC who acted as Yorkshire Forward's overall delivery agent for the rural programme.

**RESOLVED** - That details of the West Yorkshire Rural Accessibility Partnership be noted.