

AGENDA ITEM No. 15

WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

AT A MEETING OF THE BUS WORKING GROUP HELD AT WELLINGTON HOUSE ON TUESDAY 11 MAY 2005

PRESENT: Councillor J Lewis (Chair)

Councillors K Rhodes, D Schofield, C Townley
and G Wainwright

Councillor P McBride (Observer)

29. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no personal or prejudicial interests declared by members at the meeting.

30. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 1 March 2005 be approved.

31. BUS STRATEGY - NEXT STEPS

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on further work associated with Metro's revised Bus Strategy.

Members received a short presentation on the revised Bus Strategy. It was reported that the draft Bus Strategy would be sent to operators, users, District Councils, the Traffic Commissioner and neighbouring authorities during the forthcoming week for consultation. It was proposed that the consultation would be undertaken over a three-month period, in accordance with DfT advice on good practice.

Members noted that the implementation of the draft Bus Strategy could require an application to the Secretary of State for Transport for Bus Quality Contracts, although no such judgement would be made until responses to the formal consultation process had been considered. Should an application for a Quality Bus Contract be submitted, a number of important issues would need to be addressed including legal considerations, operator responses, contract specification and management and timescales.

Members discussed various issues that would need to be considered in determining how Bus Quality Contracts would work, including risk and revenue, TUPE implications and the ownership of assets and work that would consider how best to stimulate market responses and manage the interests of incumbent operators, including the position of smaller operators.

Members noted that the outcome of detailed work on contract specification and management and timescales would be reported to a future meeting of the Group.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the further progress be noted.
- (b) That the Working Group received a presentation on the issues set out in the report.

32. LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN PROGRAMME

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on Metro's investment in bus infrastructure through the second Local Transport Plan.

Members noted that all authorities preparing second Local Transport Plans had been given planning guidelines to develop future 5 year programmes. The Local Transport Plan Steering Group had requested that initial programmes be drawn up on the basis of the allocation formula used for the first Local Transport Plan.

It was reported that the upgrading of shelter stock, the replacement of life expired Accessbus vehicles and the replacement of those components of the CCTV system that would become life expired, would be priorities for the bus based element of the programme. The proposed programme would also include the provision of smaller bus stations, camera enforcement of bus lanes and new bus-rail interchange and park and ride facilities.

RESOLVED - That the Working Group endorsed the approach and provisional programme set out in the report.

33. PERFORMANCE AND QUALITY MONITORING OF BUS SERVICES

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the results of the formal monitoring exercise of bus service performance.

Members received a short presentation on examples of output from the Real Time Passenger Information system. Members noted that the system would provide comprehensive data that would assist scheduling and schedule adherence as well as providing information to passengers. Members welcomed the development of the system.

It was reported that Metro was currently in discussion with bus operators to develop specific Performance Plans and set targets for improving bus service reliability and punctuality.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

34. KICKSTART

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive advising members on the potential projects for submission to the Department for Transport for current Kickstart funding.

Members noted the potential schemes which had been identified through consultation with local Councillors, PCC members and operators. It was reported that each of the potential schemes would be refined to ensure that they would integrate with established bus and rail services and complement the Local Transport Plan.

RESOLVED – That progress in the development of Kickstart schemes be noted.

35. WEST YORKSHIRE COMMUNITY TRANSPORT FORUM

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive updating members on Metro's work with the West Yorkshire Community Transport Forum.

Members were advised that Community Transport providers in West Yorkshire had formed the West Yorkshire Community Transport Forum as a basis of disseminating information and working collectively. The development of the Forum was an opportunity for Metro to engage with the Community Transport sector at a strategic level and a means by which Metro could communicate its role and standards to individual organisations. Members welcomed the development of the Forum.

RESOLVED - That Metro's role in supporting the West Yorkshire Community Transport Forum be noted.