

AGENDA ITEM No: 4.

AT A MEETING OF THE WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY HELD AT WELLINGTON HOUSE ON FRIDAY 28 JULY 2006

PRESENT: Councillor J S King (Chair)

Councillors D Congreve, R Downes, C Greaves, K Hussain, S Khan, M Lyons, P McBride, G Phelps, D Schofield, M Slater, E Smaje, C Smith, T Swift, C Townsley, G Wainwright, M Walker and A Wallace

25. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Blackburn, B Hyde, J Jarosz and K Rhodes.

26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors C Greaves and M Slater declared personal interests in Agenda Item 8 Bradford Passenger Consultative Committee, Minute 4, Bradford Canal, and took no part in the discussion.

27. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AUTHORITY HELD ON 23 JUNE 2006

Further to minute 21, Membership of Local Government Association, it was reported that a letter of clarification had been received from the Local Government Association confirming that under their constitution, PTAs had voting rights (pro rata) on transport policy and corporate issues.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That approval be given for the Authority to continue its membership of the Local Government Association.
- (b) That the minutes of the meeting of the Authority held on 23 June 2006 be approved and signed by the Chair.

28. PASSENGER CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the minutes of the meeting of the Leeds Passenger Consultative Committee held on 3 July 2006 be noted.

- (b) That the minutes of the meeting of the Kirklees Passenger Consultative Committee held on 5 July 2006 be noted.
- (c) That the minutes of the meeting of the Wakefield Passenger Consultative Committee held on 6 July 2006 be noted.
- (d) That the minutes of the meeting of the Bradford Passenger Consultative Committee held on 7 July 2006 be noted.
- (e) That the minutes of the meeting of the Calderdale Passenger Consultative Committee held on 11 July 2006 be noted.

29. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN STEERING GROUP HELD ON 17 JULY 2006

The Chairman informed the meeting that, in consultation with Councillor McBride and the Director of Passenger Services, the Terms of Reference had been amended to include the following:

“To consider Regional and other relevant external matters (eg developments of the Northern Way Strategy, application of the City Region concept, information from the Regional Assembly, Yorkshire Forward, the Regional Transport Board, implementation of the Regional Spatial Strategy and proposals from other external bodies which may affect transport policy in West Yorkshire) and respond as appropriate to relevant bodies.”

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the minutes of the meeting of the Local Transport Plan Steering Group held on 17 July 2006 be noted.
- (b) That the amended Terms of Reference be approved.

30. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TENDERED SERVICES WORKING GROUP HELD ON 18 JULY 2006

Concern was expressed regarding trends in the tendered service costs over the last couple of years, especially the 25% loss in tendered service mileage. Councillor Lyons commented that the operators were continually failing in their duty to provide a good reliable quality service for passengers in West Yorkshire and that the Authority should be developing an application to the Secretary of State for Bus Quality Contracts for the worst affected areas.

In response it was reported that although the Tendered Services Working Group over the years had overseen a significant reduction in tendered services mileage and, in view of the financial constraints on the tendered service budget, they had managed a very difficult situation in trying to retain the core services and keep any gaps in the services network to a minimum and taking value for money into consideration.

It was reported that a report on the Bus Strategy, which would include Quality Contracts, would be considered at the next meeting of the Authority. In this respect, members were reminded that the Bus Strategy would have to form the basis for any application for a Quality Contract.

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Tendered Services Working Group held on 18 July 2006 be noted.

31. CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Authority considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the proposed release of capital expenditure with regard to the proposed Huddersfield Free Town bus.

It was reported that Kirklees MC had agreed to jointly fund the operation of the Free Town bus service on the basis of an agreed evaluation criteria which were consistent with the wider LTP congestion, modal split and accessibility targets. The service would be trialed for 9 months and during that time performance would be monitored to ensure that the service was meeting the criteria.

It was proposed that two low floor single-decked buses would be secured which would be funded under Section 56 of the Transport Act 1968. Members were informed that this method was desirable and cost effective in view of the trial nature of the service and that it was consistent with the approach adopted for the Leeds FreeCityBus.

It was also reported that discussions were ongoing with Wakefield and Bradford to provide similar appropriate services in their respective city centres.

RESOLVED - That the release of capital expenditure be approved as follows:

	£
(a) Holme Valley Kickstart	138,000
(b) Huddersfield FreeTownBus	261,000
(c) Integrated Services Systems Enhancements	360,000
(d) Customer Services Strategy (ICT Phase 1)	170,000
(e) Bus Station Cleaning Machines Programme	9,800
(f) New Vehicle	10,500

32. ESTABLISHMENT OF A TICKETING COMPANY

The Authority considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the proposed establishment of a company to oversee the administration of the West Yorkshire Prepaid Ticketing Scheme.

It was reported that the Bus and Business Improvement Working Groups had endorsed the principle of joining the West Yorkshire Ticketing Company (TICCO).

In response to a question raised regarding the need for a ticketing company, it was mentioned that whilst the current scheme had worked satisfactorily, a number of issues had emerged over the years, particularly with regard to the method of determining prices and cost recovery arrangements, and the role of the Office of Fair Trading (OFT).

Comment was made that operators also had the powers to administer their own ticketing scheme and that if the current arrangements were not changed and formalised there could be challenges from one or more operators and/or operators considering withdrawing from the scheme.

It was reported that discussions had taken place with all parties and it was now considered that the establishment of a ticketing company which was successfully operating in Greater Manchester and Tyne and Wear, was the most feasible solution as it could deliver the formalised structure and address the concerns of operators in respect of OFT consideration.

A Joint Venture Agreement incorporating measures to protect Metro's interests had been drafted on the future arrangements for the administration of the scheme, which would continue to be carried out by Metro.

RESOLVED - That the proposed establishment of a ticketing company for the administration of multi-operator prepaid tickets and the measures incorporated in the Joint Venture Agreement to protect Metro's interests be approved.

33. TRANSPORT VISION AND TIF PUMP PRIMING BID

The Authority considered a report of the Passenger Transport Authority on a request from the City Regions Leaders meeting for Metro to submit a bid for pump priming funding to the Transport Innovation Fund.

It was reported that as part of the 20 year transport vision, Metro had been asked to submit a bid of £1.5 million for research funding on behalf of the City Region Partnership to study the impact of congestion and how investment and demand management, including investigating a potential role for road charging, could assist the local economy. A decision on whether the City Region bid had been successful would be made in the early Autumn.

Comment was also made that the submission of the pump priming bid did not commit the City Region to the implementation of a road-charging scheme, but was intended to develop a better understanding of where such measures may or may not, be appropriate in the future.

It was noted that research and consultation during the LTP process had confirmed that tackling congestion across the city region was an absolute priority for the long-term success of the local economy.

Members welcomed the bid which in their view would strengthen the case to Government for investment in public transport, including rapid bus transit, bus park and ride schemes, more effective use of the rail network and the possible extension of tram-train technology as part of a the longer term package to address congestion and support sustained economic growth.

RESOLVED - That the application for pump priming funding from the Transport Innovation Fund on behalf of the Leeds City Region be submitted to the Department for Transport for their consideration.

34. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Authority considered a recommendation to exclude the press and public from Agenda Item 15 which contained exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12a Local Government Act 1972.

RESOLVED - It was agreed that because disclosure of the report might prejudice future negotiations on bus station leases, the public would be better served by maintaining the exempt information and therefore, the press and public be now excluded.

35. THE KIOSK – PONTEFRACT BUS STATION

The Authority considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on proposed terms for the granting of a new lease in respect of The Kiosk at Pontefract Bus Station.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That approval be given to the granting of a 10 year lease to Mr Martin and Mrs Cutts, subject to the terms outlined in paragraph 3.1 of the submitted report.
- (b) That the Passenger Transport Executive be authorised to complete the necessary documentation.