

AGENDA ITEM NO: 23

WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

AT A MEETING OF THE TENDERED SERVICES WORKING GROUP HELD IN WELLINGTON HOUSE ON FRIDAY 3 JUNE 2005

PRESENT: Councillor G Wainwright (Chair)

Councillors K Hussain, J S King and J Lewis

61. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P McBride, G Mulholland and G Phelps.

62. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following personal interests were declared by Members at the meeting:-

Councillor K Hussain - Minutes 70 and 71

Councillor G Wainwright - Minutes 70 and 71

63. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2005 be approved.

64. BATCH 295 - BUS SERVICES IN THE KIRKLEES DISTRICT

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on proposals for the extension of part of the batch contracts for local bus services operating in the Kirklees district and proposals to invite tenders for local daytime minibus services in Huddersfield.

It was reported that the batch comprised of mostly evening and Sunday services operating in the Huddersfield area together with the local network of daytime minibus services.

Arising from the recommendations of the Best Value Accessibility Review, the Working Group were informed that this batch would provide a useful

pilot project to apply accessibility planning considerations to the evening and Sunday networks which were almost wholly tendered. Discussions had been held with the current operator, First, with a view to extending the term of contracts by 6 months until April 2006 to allow for accessibility appraisals prior to the invitation of tenders in the Autumn. The results of the review would be reported to a future meeting of the Group.

It was proposed to separately tender the local network daytime minibuss services and invite tenders for a 3-5 year contract. This would facilitate an opportunity for smaller operators to compete more effectively for this work.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the term of contracts for the operation of local bus services be extended until 31 April 2006 to facilitate the review of the accessibility value provided by the service be noted.
- (b) That the invitation to tender for the local minibuss service, as detailed in the submitted report, be approved as being consistent with the Authority's policy for the provision of local bus services.

65. IMPACT OF BUS SERVICE CHANGES

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on revisions to tendered bus services throughout West Yorkshire as a result of changes to commercial bus services which took place on 24 April 2005.

The Working Group were given an update on the following services which had caused significant local concern since their withdrawal:

- (i) Service 526 - Halifax to Bradshaw: Operation maintained on a tendered basis from Bradshaw to Shelf via Queensbury for a trial period.
- (ii) Service 502 - Halifax and Keighley: Service restored commercially to permit a review prior to consideration of tendered options for implementation in September.
- (iii) Service 267 - Elland to Brighouse: A full report on this matter would be submitted to the next meeting of the Working Group.
- (iv) Headfield Road, Dewsbury: Service restored commercially by Arriva.
- (v) Services 647/651: Removal of bus service from Apperley Bridge

area. A trial ‘use it or lose it’ service was now operating and patronage would be reviewed prior to the September service changes date.

The Working Group were also informed that the Aire Valley Metro Connect was not performing as well as expected. Fares revenue was less than had been budgeted for and a decision had therefore been taken to withdraw weekend services.

RESOLVED - That the actions taken in accordance with the Authority’s policies for the provision of local bus services be noted.

66. RURAL BUS SERVICE TENDERING

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the renewal of tenders for the Holme Valley local minibus network and the withdrawal of the following services as a result of a ‘Value for Money’ Review recently carried out:

- Service 171 An hourly service linking Castleford and Methley
- Service 905 Sowerby Bridge market day service

It was reported that the contract for the operation of the above services had been temporarily extended following the ‘Value for Money’ review. An appraisal was carried out and the results had shown that in both instances the level of passenger use did not meet the Authority’s criteria for tendered services and did not justify the continuation of the service.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That Service 171 and 905 be withdrawn as being consistent with the Authority’s policy for the provision of tendered bus services.
- (b) That the invitation to tender for the Holme Valley local minibus services, as outlined in the submitted report, be approved as being consistent with the Authority’s policies for local bus services.

67. WHARFE VALLEY LOCAL BUS NETWORK

The Working Group considered a report on the renewal of tenders for local minibus services in the Wharfe Valley.

It was reported that following a consultation exercise and research carried out as part of the Wharfe Valley Area Study to consider accessibility issues, the local minibus network had been modified to better meet the

needs of passengers in the area.

The revisions included:

- Revised routing of Ilkley shopper services
- New early morning links to trains in Ilkley
- Improved links to local supermarket in Otley
- Better connections between Menston and Otley

RESOLVED - That the invitation to tender for the Wharfe Valley local minibus services be approved, as outlined in the submitted report, as being consistent with the Authority's policies for local bus services.

68. SERVICE 923 – OTLEY RURAL BUS CHALLENGE

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the award of a revised de minimis contract in respect of Service 923 (Wetherby-Otley-Menston) to address the issues which had been identified arising from the Wharfe Valley Area Transport Study.

The revisions proposed included:

- Provision of a Monday service;
- Introduction of an additional late afternoon journey;
- Changes to the route to better serve East Keswick, which would restore the frequency of the service between the village and Wetherby and provide new links to Otley and Harewood House;
- Termination of the service at Waitrose supermarket, Otley.

RESOLVED - That the award of de minimis contracts for enhancements to the operation of Service 923, as outlined in the submitted report, be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policies for the provision of local bus services.

69. AWARD OF CONTRACT - TOURIST BUS SERVICES SUMMER 2005

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the award of contracts to operate "Day Tripper" tourist bus services during summer 2005.

It was reported that for the past two summers, Metro had funded the operation of tourist bus services throughout West Yorkshire and during that time they had been closely monitored. Data revealed that the services in Leeds and Kirklees, together with one of the services in Wakefield, had performed very well and would be continued in 2005. Service 906, which was promoted within the Hebden Bridger network in Calderdale, had also proved successful and would be continued.

The Group were informed that revisions to the routes had been made using feedback from the previous two years. The 2005 services would run between 23 July and 3 September on specific days of the week with Service 906 service continuing until 2 October 2005 to coincide with the end of the Roses Walking Festival.

The Committee expressed their disappointment that the services in the Bradford District had not been well used in 2004 and therefore would not operate in 2005.

RESOLVED - That the award of de minimis contracts for the operation of tourist bus services, as outlined in the submitted report, be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policies for local bus services.

70. BATCH 337 - TENDERED SCHOOL TAXI CONTRACTS - CALDERDALE DISTRICT

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the results of tenders received in Batch 337 for the provision of school taxi and minibus services in the Calderdale District, including those administered by Metro on behalf of Calderdale MC as part of the Education Transport Agency Agreement.

RESOLVED - That the award of contract, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the submitted report, be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policy for the provision of education transport facilities.

71. EDUCATION TRANSPORT De MINIMIS / EMERGENCY AWARDS AND CONTRACT VARIATIONS - SPRING 2005

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the award of de minimis/emergency contracts together with variations to ongoing contracts for the period 4 January 2005 - 24 March 2005.

RESOLVED - That the awards, as detailed in the submitted report, be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policy for the provision of education transport facilities.

72. PHASE 2 - YELLOW BUS TENDERING STRATEGY

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the proposed strategy for tendering the operation of the 60 vehicles required in Phase 2 of the Yellow Bus Scheme which was aimed at maximising the number of tenders received whilst securing value for money.

It was reported that the number of tenders received for Phase I was extremely disappointing, which resulted in re-tendering a number of contracts as the bids received did not represent value for money.

Following discussions with the operators regarding their reluctance to participate in the tendering process, an alternative approach had been developed for the tendering of Phase II. Operator concerns over the completion of the tender documents and the administrative requirements of the scheme had now been addressed by:-

- Revisions to the tender documentation issued.
- An operator seminar to explain the nature and requirements of the scheme and the tendering procedures.

The Working Group were informed that tenders would be issued in one large batch. Bids would be appraised, having regard to the overall Value for Money achieved and against both the existing cost of contracts and the prices secured from Phase I of the tendering process. Should that approach fail to achieve the desired outcome, tender awards would not be progressed and the tenders would be reissued in smaller batches similar to the Phase I process.

RESOLVED - That the invitation to tender for Phase II of the Yellow Bus Project, as outlined in the submitted report, be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policies for education transport facilities.