

# AGENDA ITEM NO: 8b.

## WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

### AT A MEETING OF THE TENDERED SERVICES WORKING GROUP HELD IN WELLINGTON HOUSE ON MONDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2006

**PRESENT:** Councillor G Wainwright (Chair)

Councillors D Congreve, J S King and G Phelps

#### **32. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors W S Hyde and C Townsley.

#### **33. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

#### **34. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2006 be approved.

#### **35. ARRIVA BUS SERVICE CHANGES**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive providing an update on proposed changes to Arriva bus services in Kirklees, Wakefield and Bradford planned for January 2007.

Members noted that the changes were aimed at improving frequencies on some key corridors. To achieve this the resources would be diverted from less well used services which would result in the removal of services from some areas.

It was reported that following initial consultation meetings, Metro and Arriva had considered options which would mitigate some of the consequences for passengers and a further meeting would be held on 13 November 2006 with Arriva and local representatives. It was hoped that the meeting would conclude discussions on the proposed plans and allow for registration of the new network to be introduced at the end of January 2007.

The Working Group noted that as a consequence Arriva had given notice on various contracts to amend tendered services.

**RESOLVED -**

- (a) That the amendments to tendered services arising from Arriva's service changes be noted.
- (b) That the outcome of the further discussions with Arriva be reported to the December meeting of the group.

**36. BUS SERVICE CHANGES - BRADFORD**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive providing an update on proposed changes to bus services in Bradford.

It was reported that First Bradford had advised Metro of its intention to vary the route and reduce the frequency of service 846 which was a commercial service that operated between Buttershaw, Bradford City Centre and Shipley. It was noted that many elderly passengers used the service and Metro had received several requests from ward members to protect the service.

Metro had discussed options with First Bradford and a solution was being sought which may reallocate tendered subsidy in Bradford to maintain those parts of the minibus network which were well used and highly valued by passengers. However First had been advised that Metro would not increase its overall subsidy of services as part of the review. Members requested that the matter be resolved at the earliest opportunity and a report prepared for the next meeting of the Group detailing action to be taken.

**RESOLVED -** That a further report be submitted to the Group detailing any actions to be taken to retain the accessibility provided by Service 846 in Bradford.

**37. RURAL BUS SERVICE CONTRACTS**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the extension/amendment to the following bus service contracts:

- The extension of the term of contracts for Otley local services 940 – 946
- The extension of the term of contracts for Marsden local services 335 and 937
- Amendments to the Hebden Bridger tendered minibus network
- The extension of the term of a de minimis contract for Halifax – Warley – Newlands

With regard to the Otley local services 940-946, members were advised that Metro had received notification that Pegasus.com had gone into liquidation. Pegasus had also run the 960 services and short term arrangements had therefore been made for First to cover those services and K Line the 940 services until de minimis contracts could be awarded. It was noted that small operators would be given the opportunity to run the services through the future process to put new contracts in place.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the extension of the term of contracts for Otley and Marsden local services be noted.
- (b) That the amendments to the contracts for Metro Connect Hebden Bridger services be noted.
- (c) That the award of a de minimis contract for Service 546 be noted.

**38. MYBUS PHASE 3 TENDERING**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive providing an update on the MyBus tender process and plans for the issue of the last batch of Phase 3 MyBuses.

Members noted that Phase 3 had been tendered as two batches – School Base in Calderdale and 25 services in Leeds, plus one outstanding Special School service in Calderdale. Tenders had been awarded for 41 of the 60 vehicles and tender documents would be issued in mid-November for the final batch of Phase 3 services to enable awards to be made before the end of the year. A report would be prepared for the next meeting of the Working Group.

**RESOLVED** - That the final batch of Phase 3 MyBuses tenders be approved.

**39. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The Working Group considered a recommendation to exclude the press and public from Agenda Item 9, which contained exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

**RESOLVED** - It was agreed that because the report contained commercially sensitive information on tenders received, which could also prejudice negotiations in the future, the public interest would be better served by maintaining the exemption and, therefore, the press and public should be excluded.

#### **40. SERVICE 900 – AWARD OF CONTRACTS**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the award of contracts for the operation of Service 900 operating between Huddersfield and Hebden Bridge.

It was noted that the current contract for the operation of Service 900 expired in October 2006 but agreement had been reached with First to extend the contract until 28 January 2007 to effect the transfer of the service. K Line had submitted the cheapest tender to operate the service using the Metro funded bus available. The company had also submitted an alternative option to operate the service using a new Optare Solo bus. It was therefore proposed to award the contract to K Line on this basis with further work to realise the value of the vehicle currently used on the service. The outcome of the further investigations regarding the use and/or disposal of the existing vehicle would be reported to a future meeting of the Working Group.

**RESOLVED** – That the award of a contract to Teamdeck Ltd T/A K Line Travel Company be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policy for the provision of tendered local bus services.