

**WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY**

**AT A MEETING OF THE TENDERED SERVICES WORKING GROUP  
HELD IN WELLINGTON HOUSE ON  
MONDAY 2 APRIL 2007**

**PRESENT:** Councillor R Downes (Chair)  
Councillors D Congreve, B Hyde, K Rhodes, G Wainwright  
Councillor C Greaves attended for Minute No 79.

**74. CHAIR**

**RESOLVED** - That Councillor Downes be elected to chair the meeting in the absence of Councillor Townsley.

**75. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Phelps and Townsley.

**76. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Greaves declared a personal interest in Minute 79.

Councillor Wainwright declared a personal interest in Minute 81. He vacated the room at his own discretion and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

**77. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2007 be approved.

**78. STAGECOACH SERVICE CHANGES**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive giving an update in respect of revised contracts for the operation of tendered bus services operated by Stagecoach in Kirklees and Wakefield and other service changes proposed by the company.

It was also noted that tenders would be invited for the operation of minibus services in Huddersfield currently operated by Stagecoach.

The following changes were noted:

- (i) **Barnsley to Wakefield** - It was reported that Stagecoach were unable to run alternate journeys via Woolley and the A61. As a consequence services for Woolley would be lost.
- (ii) **Pontefract - South Elmsall Area** - It was reported that Metro part funded Service 248 between Pontefract and Hemsworth, primarily to serve Low Ackworth. Following representations Stagecoach had agreed to operate Service 246 via Low Ackworth and the Lark Hill estate to meet the tendered services need.
- (iii) **Service 211 - Barnsley - Doncaster via South Elmsall** - It was reported that this service would now terminate in South Elmsall. Stagecoach were giving consideration to divert and extend the service via Little Lane in part replacement for the rerouted Service 246.
- (iv) **South Kirklees** - It was reported that in view of the low passenger usage, agreement had been reached with South Yorkshire PTE to withdraw cross boundary services 245/246, which served the villages between Huddersfield, Denby Dale, Clayton West and Barnsley.

The Working Group were informed that although the loss of bus links could cause some local concerns the service was poorly used and alternative public transport options utilising the local rail services were available.

Comment was made that as part of the network review Stagecoach were proposing to make changes to services in South Kirklees making the network easier for passengers to understand and retaining levels of service for all the principle settlements in the area. Part tendered 233 service (Huddersfield to Emley - 3 trips per day) would be withdrawn to enable bus resources to be utilised more effectively in the rationalised Huddersfield-Denby Dale/Clayton West network.

Stagecoach had now submitted a revised tender price using low floor buses for the operation of services within the revised network.

- (v) **Huddersfield Mini Bus Service** - It was reported that Stagecoach had written to Metro giving notice of their intention to withdraw from their contract for the operation of the following minibus services in Huddersfield.

354/355	Huddersfield - Blackmoorfoot
368	Huddersfield - Marsh - Newsome - Almondbury
374/375	Huddersfield - Dalton - Woodedge Avenue

Comment was made that the services met the Authority's criteria for tendered services and it was, therefore, proposed to issue tenders for the continuation of the services to serve those parts of Huddersfield, which otherwise would be without a bus service.

## **RESOLVED -**

- (a)** That the amended contract in respect of Service 248 in South Wakefield, as detailed in the submitted report, be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policy for local bus services.
- (b)** That the award of a de minimis contract to Stagecoach for the operation of services in South East Kirklees, as detailed in the submitted report, be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policy for local bus services.
- (c)** That the invitation to tender for the Huddersfield minibus service, as detailed in the submitted report, be approved as being consistent with the Authority's policy for the provision of local bus services.

## **79. BUS SERVICE 967 - MENSTON AND OTLEY**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive updating members on negotiations to secure services between Menston and Otley and the issue of tenders for the operation of Service 967 Menston to Otley.

It was reported that Service 967 operated on a half hourly basis between Otley and Menston railway station providing an effective bus and rail link service. This had been extended by Pegasus to serve Westfield on a commercial basis.

Following the liquidation of Pegasus the service reverted back to the tendered section and has been operated by First Bradford on an emergency contract.

In this respect, First Leeds had proposed an alternative network, which enhanced the frequency of Services 33/33A Leeds-Guiseley-Menston to every 10 minutes. The residents of the High Royds housing development would receive free travel on the services between the site and Menston station.

The Working Group were informed that the enhancement of the frequency of the services would require additional revenue support, it was envisaged that this would be secured from the developers under the terms of the planning permission requiring them to provide a shuttle bus service between the site and Menston rail station free of charge. First expected that the new service would be sustainable and would not require additional funding following the initial short term funding.

The Working Group were informed that it had not yet been possible to secure the agreement of Leeds City Council and the developers. A letter had now been sent by Metro to the Director of Development at Leeds City Council seeking reconsideration of the developer's decision to introduce a stand alone shuttle bus between the site and Menston rail station.

A letter was also circulated from Menston Community Association expressing concern that parts of Menston to the north and west of the village were not served by public transport causing elderly residents in those areas considerable transport problems. It was recommended that an approach be made to Menston Parish Council to make a financial contribution towards running a service to these areas.

**RESOLVED -**

- (a) That in keeping with the Authority's policy for the provision of tendered services, tenders be sought in accordance with the proposals outlined in the submitted report.
- (b) That the extension of the deminimis contract awarded to First Bradford until 1 September 2007, as detailed in the submitted report, be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policy for local bus services.
- (c) That a letter be sent to Menston Parish Council requesting a financial contribution to the provision of local buses in the area.

**80. METRO CONNECT AIRE VALLEY LEEDS**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the continuation of the Metro Connect Aire Valley Leeds service.

It was reported that the service was now solely funded by Metro since the Urban Bus Challenge Funding ended in October 2006.

Comment was made that currently the service carried an average of 5 passengers per day and that this was marginally below the Authority's criteria for tendered services. Future funding had now been identified by the Leeds SRB Team through the EASEL Regeneration Project. It was therefore proposed that the current contract for operation of the service be extended until October 2007 to allow funding submissions to be considered and additional funding secured. The Working Group considered that the loss of the service would be a retrograde step in the development of public transport in the area, particularly in areas where car use was low.

**RESOLVED -**

- (a) That the award of contracts to TLC Travel for extension to the MetroConnect Aire Valley Leeds Scheme until 28 October 2007, as detailed in the submitted report, be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policy for local bus services.
- (b) That in the event that funding of the service beyond 28 October 2007 be secured, tenders be invited as detailed in the submitted report as being consistent with the Authority's policy for local bus services.

- (c) That a further report be brought to the Working Group at such a time when future arrangements had been established.

## **81. RURAL BUS SERVICE CONTRACTS**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the provision of rural bus services funded by the Rural Bus Subsidy Grant.

### **Services in Rural Calderdale**

It was reported that the Metro Connect Taxi Bus services in the Ryburn Valley were due to expire in July 2008. In order to ensure that all possible opportunities were considered, it was proposed to extend the terms of the existing contract in respect of the following services and undertake a wider review of tendered service provision in the Ryburn Valley and Elland, as part of developing the strategy for the end of the Taxi Bus contract.

- Services E3-E6 : Elland Minibus
- Service MC4 : MetroConnect Lowfields
- Service 586 : Norland Circular

### **Day Tripper**

It was reported that since 2003, Metro had provided day tripper services during the school summer holidays. In 2005 services were reduced to those, which demonstrated strong passenger demand and were supported by District Council initiatives. The Working Group were informed that this approach proved successful in 2006 and it was proposed to again operate the following services in 2007:

- Service 950 - Leeds and Castleford to Temple Newsam, Lotherton Hall and Fairburn Ings (Tuesday to Saturday)
- Service 956 - Huddersfield to National Coal Mining Museum, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Cawthorne, Cannon Hall (Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday)
- Service 957 - Holmfirth, Dewsbury and Batley to National Coal Mining Museum, Bagshaw Museum, Red House Museum and Oakwell Park

### **RESOLVED -**

- (a) That the extension of contracts for the continued operation of services in rural Calderdale, as detailed in the submitted report, be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policy for local transport services.
- (b) That the award of deminimis contracts for the operation of day tripper services, as detailed in the submitted report, be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policy for local bus services.