

## **AGENDA ITEM NO: 17**

### **WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY**

#### **AT A MEETING OF THE TENDERED SERVICES WORKING GROUP HELD IN WELLINGTON HOUSE ON WEDNESDAY 31 MAY 2006**

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

Councillors J Jarosz, P McBride, C Townley and M Walker

#### **149. APOLOGIES**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor G Phelps.

#### **150. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

#### **151. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 29 March 2006 be approved.

#### **152. BATCH 406 – AWARD OF BUS SERVICE TENDERS**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the award of contracts advertised in Batch 386 comprising the following services:

Service 770 - Evening and Sunday journeys - Leeds - Seacroft - Thorner - Bramham - Boston Spa - Wetherby - Harrogate

Service 760 – Early morning journeys - Keighley to Leeds

Service 662 – Early morning journeys - Keighley to Bradford

**RESOLVED** - That the award of the contract as detailed in the submitted report be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policy for the provision of local bus services.

## 153. EMERGENCY TENDERED SERVICES CONTRACTS

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the award of emergency contracts to ensure that local communities had access to public transport during disruption arising from highway works.

It was noted that the third parties undertaking the works had mainly funded services which had been provided at the following locations:

Pinfold Lane – Water main works

Thorpe Edge, Bradford – Sewer works

Midgehole Hebden Bridger – Demolition works

Lillands Lane, Brighouse – Sewer works

**RESOLVED** - That the award of emergency contracts as detailed in the submitted report be noted.

## 154. IMPACT OF SERVICE CHANGES

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on actions taken to address the impact of recent service changes on tendered bus services.

### Service 713 – Keighley to Silsden

It was reported that as a result of further discussions with Silsden Town Council to address the considerable concerns of residents in Waterside and High Utley, a further amendment had been made to Service 903 which would provide two through journeys to Keighley via High Utley enabling an off peak direct service for local residents.

### MetroConnect Hebden Bridge

It was reported that Metro had received a high number of letters from the residents of Eaves expressing concerns that the withdrawal of the local minibus service had left them isolated from the town due to poor pedestrian facilities. Following discussions with Hebden Royd Parish Council, these concerns had been addressed and, from July, daily journeys to Eaves would be reinstated by the withdrawal of the service to the Valley Road area of the Town Centre where patronage was very poor. Whilst the withdrawal of the Hardcastle Craggs service had elicited little comment, concerns remained over the market day only service to Longfield. There was no practicable solution to this issue.

### Otley Area

It was reported that Pegasus had extended the operation of the Bradford Airport service to Pool and Otley to maintain the link lost by the withdrawal of the 654 service which was operated by First Bradford.

From July, tendered service 967 Menston to Otley would be extended to Pool on Monday to Saturday evenings to replace Service 904 which had been withdrawn due to the withdrawal of funding by North Yorkshire County Council's decision to withdraw funding. Subject to the agreement of the owner of the nearby petrol station, some journeys would terminate at the Hunters Arms between Pool and Huby.

**RESOLVED** - That the amendments to contracts as detailed in the submitted report be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policy for the provision of local bus services.

#### **155. HOLME VALLEY - KICKSTART**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the award of a deminimis contract for the extension of Holme Valley services to serve Huddersfield Rail Station as part of the Department for Transport Kickstart Award.

It was reported that a deminimis contract had been awarded to First for a five year period. The first three years would be paid by DfT funding and then First would be contractually obliged to operate the service at no additional subsidy for the remaining two years.

Members noted that the project also involved:

- (a) Partnership funding of refurbished/new route branded buses
- (b) The introduction of Bus/rail ticketing developed between First West Yorkshire and TransPennine Express whereby passengers would be able to buy through single and return tickets to Leeds and Manchester on the bus. This would be extended in the future to provide a wider range of ticket types and destinations when the 'Advantix' ticketing equipment was introduced on the buses.
- (c) Enhanced interchange information at Huddersfield Rail Station.
- (d) Marketing the service with through rail connections.

#### **RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the award of a deminimis contract for the operation of Holme Valley services between Huddersfield bus and rail stations be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policy for the provision of tendered local bus services.
- (b) That the Authority be requested to approve the capital expenditure associated with the scheme.

## **156. LEEDS FREE CITYBUS**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive giving an update on the performance of the Leeds Free CityBus and for an extension of the service until March 2007 to allow further negotiations with third parties to be concluded.

It was reported that the service had exceeded all expectations with current average weekly loadings of over 29,000 which was continuing to increase. The service had achieved all the objectives which had been discussed at previous meetings particularly with regard to modal shift and reductions in car traffic and improvements to accessibility for the mobility impaired.

Leeds City Council have accepted in principle that the net cost of the service would be met on a 50/50 basis. In this respect Members expressed their disappointment that the City Council's contributions would not commence until 2007/08.

Further discussions were ongoing with city centre organisations and train operating companies to explore additional third party funding.

### **RESOLVED -**

- (a) That continuation of the service until March 2007 as detailed in the submitted report be noted.
- (b) That the Passenger Transport Authority be recommended to consider in principle the possibility of introducing other similar appropriate services in other district centres in West Yorkshire.

## **157. ACCESSBUS CONTRACTS**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the extension of existing contracts for the operation of AccessBus in Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield and the award of a deminimis contract for the operation of AccessBus in Leeds.

The Working Group were informed that the review of the AccessBus service was still ongoing which was being overseen by the Bus Working Group. To enable the comprehensive review of the service and consider all options it was proposed to extend the existing contracts until 2007.

It was reported that First who operated the service in Leeds had indicated that they were only prepared to continue running the service at an additional cost of £85,000 per annum to reflect high wage and fuel costs which if accepted would be considerably more expensive than the other AccessBus operations in West Yorkshire. The Working Group were informed that CT Plus who had extensive experience of running similar services in London had indicated a willingness to provide the service at a lower cost.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the extension of contracts for the operation of AccessBus services in Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policy for bus services.
- (b) That the award of a deminimis contract to CT Plus for the operation of AccessBus in Leeds be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policy for bus services.

**158. DAY TRIPPER SERVICES**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the award of deminimis contracts to operate day tripper tourist bus services during Summer 2006.

It was reported that for the past 3 summers, Metro had funded the operation of tourist buses throughout West Yorkshire and during that time they had been closely monitored. Data revealed that services 950, 956 and 957 performed well and would be continued this year. Due to poor patronage service 953 would be discontinued.

**RESOLVED** - That the award of deminimis 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.

**159. BATCH 402 – 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 402 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.

**160. MYBUS PHASE 2 – SUMMARY OF AWARDS AND PROPOSED TENDERING PROCESS FOR PHASE III**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive summarising the final allocation of vehicles and services for Phase 2 and outlining the tendering process for Phase 3.

It was reported that a number of outstanding issues previously reported had been resolved which would maximise usage of those vehicles in Phase 2.

Members noted that Phase 3 services at School Base in Calderdale had gone out to tender in May which comprised 15 vehicles and that of the remaining 45 vehicles, 24 had been identified within the Leeds district and that bids would be sought for these in early June. The other 21 vehicles would be split between Bradford, Wakefield and Kirklees. Significant work was still required on these services and tenders would be issued as a final batch in the Autumn.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the award of Lot 29 at Hemsworth to Yorkshire Traction (Stagecoach) be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policy for education transport services.
- (b) That the award of spare vehicles for Phase 1 and 2 to First, CT Plus and Yorkshire Traction as specified in paragraph 2.2 of the submitted report be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policy for education transport services.
- (c) That changes to service allocation as specified in Appendix 1 of the submitted report be noted.
- (d) That the proposed approach to tendering the remainder of Phase 3 services as detailed in the submitted report be noted.

**161. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** - That the press and public now be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that if they were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information defined in Part 1 (Paragraph 3) of Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972.

**162. MYBUS PHASE 3 – AWARD OF TENDER – SCHOOL BUS**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the results of tenders received in Batch 400 for Phase 3 tenders for School Base and the award of operating contracts.

It was reported that the batch comprised 15 vehicles and 2 spare vehicles serving the 3 schools of School Base - Holy Trinity C of E, St Catherine's RC High School and North Halifax Grammar School.

On the basis of the 5 tender bids received, meetings were held with the operators submitting the 3 lowest tenders to evaluate the relative strengths and risks, particularly with regard to staff recruitment and retention, driver suitability, facilities/premises, understanding and appreciation of MyBus and their commitment to the long term success of the scheme.

**RESOLVED** - That the award of contracts for Phase 3 MyBus School Base to First be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policy for local education transport services.

