

WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

**AT A MEETING OF THE APPOINTED MEMBERS
HELD IN WELLINGTON HOUSE, LEEDS ON
MONDAY 3 MARCH 2008**

PRESENT: Councillor R Downes (Chair)

Councillors J S King and G Phelps

24. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

25. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2007 be noted.

26. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Appointed Members considered a recommendation to exclude the press and public from agenda items 6 and 7 which contained exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)) of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

It was recommended that, because disclosure of the reports might prejudice (i) future negotiations and (ii) future negotiations on bus station leases, the public interest would be better served by maintaining the exemption and, therefore, that the press and public should be excluded.

RESOLVED – That, as disclosure could prejudice future negotiations, the press and public be now excluded from Agenda Items 6 and 7.

27. THE ENGLISH NATIONAL CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL SCHEME 2008

The Committee considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the publication of Concessionary Travel Schemes to be effective from April 2008.

It was reported that, following consideration by the Authority at its meeting on 23 November, Metro had published for consultation the new arrangements for travel by senior citizens and disabled people under the provisions of the

English National Concessionary Travel Scheme 2008. Information about eligible persons and their entitlements under the 2007 and 2008 schemes and Metro's discretionary scheme were appended to the report.

It was reported that the main issues arising from consultations on the draft scheme had been the discounting of fares, the indexation of capacity payments and the approach to capacity and reimbursement on a small number of services, such as the Yorkshire Coastliner services between Leeds and Scarborough.

The proposed scheme reflected DfT guidance on fares, elasticity and capacity payments, which would be index linked. It was accepted that there were a small number of services for which the general approach to elasticity was inappropriate and a service specific approach to reimbursement would be negotiated.

Members were informed of proposals to amend Metro's discretionary scheme as follows:

- withdraw the entitlement for senior and disabled persons to cross-boundary travel which was covered by the new national arrangements and was therefore no longer relevant;
- allow, on a 'knock for knock' basis cross-boundary travel by those holding the English National Scheme 'Companion Pass' issued by Travel Concession Authorities in the Yorkshire and Humber region.

With particular regard to the production of concessionary passes, Members were informed that there had been some problems relating to data transfer which had resulted in delays with the production of the passes. Members were advised that, in order to ensure that the passes were produced and distributed on time, additional costs would be incurred.

RESOLVED -

- (i)** That the report be noted.
- (ii)** That the publication of the statutory arrangements for the 2007 and 2008 schemes, as set out in the report and detailed in Appendix 1 and 2 be noted.
- (iii)** That the discretionary arrangements from April 2008, as set out in the report and detailed in Appendix 3, be approved.
- (iv)** That discussions continue with operators following publication of the schemes and further reports be prepared for the Concessionary Fares Working Group and the Authority.
- (v)** That any additional costs incurred in meeting the deadline for the production of concessionary passes be authorised.

***28. RESOLUTION OF FIRST APPEAL**

Consideration was given to a report of the Passenger Transport Executive which provided an update on discussions with operators regarding reimbursement arrangements.

RESOLVED – That the Clerk to the Authority be authorised to conclude a negotiated agreement with First on the basis set out in the report.

***29. LEASE AT CLECKHEATON BUS STATION**

Consideration was given to a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the granting of a new lease in respect of the retail unit at Cleckheaton Bus Station following the termination of the agreement with GT News Ltd.

RESOLVED - That a new lease be entered into on the terms set out in this report.