

WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY
AT A MEETING OF THE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT GROUP
HELD AT WELLINGTON HOUSE ON
TUESDAY 16 DECEMBER 2008

PRESENT: Councillor M Walker (Chair)

Councillors D Congreve, A Pinnock, T Swift and G Wainwright

9. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor M Bolt.

10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

11. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Group held on 24 September 2008 be approved.

12. EFFICIENCY AND VALUE FOR MONEY

The Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the arrangements in place at Metro for managing and delivering efficiency and value for money.

Members noted Metro's approach for ensuring that efficiency and effectiveness was achieved in the delivery of PTA objectives, details of which were outlined in the submitted report

The Group noted the proposal to undertake a value for money review of tendered services which would be overseen by the Tendered Services Working Group and the VFM work by the Business Improvement Group. The project brief and review outcomes would be brought to a future meeting of the Group. Comment was made that the review should consider how services are arranged in partnership with operators. It was also requested that the need for service provision in remoter, rural areas be taken into account where patronage did not meet the '6 and 20 rule'. Members requested that data be provided on bus journeys; in particular, information detailing the number of journeys currently made, their destinations and costs in comparison with 5

years ago. They also requested a list of Metro's assets to include buildings and land, either owned, leased or rented.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

13. METRO'S DRIVE FOR SKILLS INITIATIVE

The Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive updating members on the Drive for Skills initiative.

It was reported that that Metro had accessed funding for the provision of training towards the NVQ level 2 PCV driving qualifications through the Train to Gain initiative. To date 163 drivers from 10 smaller operators had signed up to receive training and an event would be arranged in early 2009 to further promote the initiative and celebrate its success.

Members were advised that Drive for Skills had been accredited as an official provider of Periodic Training. This formed part of the statutory EU Training Directive which required all bus drivers to receive 35 hours of training, over a five year period, in order to maintain their Driver Certificate of Professional Competence.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

14. YOUNG PEOPLE'S STRATEGY UPDATE

The Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive updating members on the Young People's Strategy and the implementation of the 2008/09 targets.

Members were updated on the work undertaken to date in relation to the Young People's Strategy and noted the shorter term actions for 2008/09 which were detailed in the submitted report. Two key areas had been highlighted by young people as barriers to travel – the cost and the complexity of ticketing, and Metro had appointed JMP consultants to investigate and develop a business case for the introduction of free travel for young people in West Yorkshire. Comment was made that it was important for the business case to include other models including simpler ticketing options. It was anticipated that work on the business case would be completed early in 2009 and a report would be prepared for a future meeting of the Group.

It was reported that the first meeting of the Youth Forum had been held in November. This had provided the opportunity for young people to discuss issues including the 'free travel' project, driver behaviour, safety and security and how best to formalise the membership and recruitment process. It was noted that the meeting had been attended by representatives from Kirklees and Leeds but other districts had expressed an interest in attending future meetings.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

15. SMARTER WORKING PROJECT

The Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive updating members on the Smarter Working project.

It was reported that work was being undertaken to evaluate smarter working technologies and work methods in order to continue to improve efficiency and flexibility across the organisation. Peoplespace consultants had been appointed to investigate the business case for the introduction of smarter working opportunities and the project brief was attached at Appendix 1 to the submitted report. It was noted that progress was on target and it was anticipated that the final report would be available in February 2009 and the findings presented to a future meeting of the Group.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.