

AGENDA ITEM NO: 19

WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

AT A MEETING OF THE CONCESSIONARY FARES WORKING GROUP HELD AT WELLINGTON HOUSE ON WEDNESDAY 14 JUNE 2006

PRESENT: Councillor M Walker (Chair)
Councillors K Hussain and J Jarosz

11. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

12. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2005 be approved.

13. FREE CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on First's appeal against Metro's Concessionary Travel Reimbursement arrangements.

Members were advised that First had appealed to the Secretary of State for Transport against the mandatory elements of the scheme. First had also indicated that they would wish the Secretary of State to consider the discretionary elements although in the absence of a Participation Notice served by Metro the Secretary of State, had no power to determine these elements. The PTA had approved the serving of a Participation Notice should it be necessary.

It was reported that a rebuttal statement was being prepared to address the issues raised in First's appeal and this would be submitted to the DfT by 30 June 2006. The Working Group was advised that if the appeal was successful, it would undermine Metro's three year Financial Strategy unless additional DfT funding was made available.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

14. CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL UPDATE

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the initial results following the introduction of the free concessionary travel scheme.

Members were advised that information from Metro's sales outlets had shown an increase in the number of Senior Permits issued. Initial feedback from the operators suggested a 25% increase in the number of journeys being made by concessionary passengers although more accurate figures would be available from the quarterly survey data (April to June) which would be available in August. It was noted that concessionary travel would continue to be closely monitored due to the potential financial implications.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.