

WEST YORKSHIRE INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AUTHORITY
AT A MEETING OF THE TENDERED SERVICES WORKING GROUP
HELD AT WELLINGTON HOUSE, LEEDS ON
FRIDAY 10 JULY 2009

PRESENT: Councillor G Phelps (Chair)

Councillors D Congreve, E Firth, A Pinnock and K Watson

1. CHAIR

In the absence of P Cllr McBride the meeting was chaired by Councillor G Phelps

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor P McBride.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no personal or prejudicial interests declared by members.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 June 2009 be approved.

5. FIRST BUS - SERVICE REDUCTIONS

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the current position regarding bus service reductions planned by First in July 2009.

It was reported that special Passenger Consultative Committee (PCC) meetings had been held in Bradford, Kirklees and Leeds and subsequent meetings arranged with First to discuss the impact and consequences of their proposals. Comment was also made that since the last meeting further progress had been made on resolving the following outstanding issues.

Scholes village

It was reported that since the announcement made by First to withdraw Services 68/68a, a public meeting had been held in Scholes. A leaflet had

been issued by First to every household in the village seeking their views on a proposal to divert one Service 64 per hour into Scholes. Following evaluation of the responses received First had decided to divert Service 64 into the village. Comment was made that whilst the service would provide a fast link to Leeds and Crossgates and a new link to the villages of Barwick and Aberford it would also mean that the village would lose the direct link to shopping, health facilities and St James' Hospital which was a major concern expressed by local residents.

The Working Group was advised that to address these issues it was proposed to run an 'off peak' extension of the hourly 5a service beyond Seacroft to Scholes on a 'use it or lose it' basis.

Service 653 Bradford to Otley

The Working Group was advised that TLC Travel Ltd of Bradford had now registered their intention to operate that section of the 653 route between Bradford and Otley on a commercial basis. The service would operate with one bus every 90 minutes using a Metro branded low floor minibus which previously ran on the MetroConnect Little Horton service.

Service 357 Huddersfield to Quarmby

It was reported that following First's decision to withdraw the hourly service linking Quarmby with Huddersfield Town Centre, the Halifax Joint Committee had now registered the service on a commercial basis from 20 July 2009.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the current position with regard to the First service withdrawals be noted.
- (b) That the award of a deminimis contract to First to extend Service 5A to Scholes as detailed in the submitted report be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policy for the provision of local bus services.

6. REVISION OF BATCH 473 CONTRACT AWARDS

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on revisions to contracts awarded in Batch 473 for the provision of non-Mybus school services throughout West Yorkshire.

It was reported that whilst the Freight Transit Association had confirmed that the maintenance arrangements that A & A Travel had in place were satisfactory and that the company's vehicles were in good working order, a further inspection had established that the company was only licensed to operate three and not the five vehicles indicated on their tender submission.

The company also no longer possessed a 57 seat vehicle, a requirement for the F65 service to St John Fisher School.

As a consequence it had been decided to reduce the number of contracts from 3 to 2 and during the one year probationary period to require half term vehicles inspections by the Freight Transit Association.

It was reported that Tetley's Motor Services had now been awarded the F65 service to St John Fisher School.

The Working Group was also advised the contract previously awarded to Centrebus for the K3 service was only for a 45 seat vehicle although a 75 seat bus was required. A revised price had now been accepted as it was still significantly lower than the next lowest tender received.

RESOLVED – That the changes to the contract awards be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policies for the provision of schools transport service.

7. BATCH 474 – SCHOOLS TAXI AND MINIBUS TENDERS CALDERDALE DISTRICT 2009/2010

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the results of tenders received in Batch 474 for the provision of school taxi and minibus services in the Calderdale District administered by Metro on behalf of Calderdale LEA as part of the Education Transport Agency Agreement.

RESOLVED – That the award of contracts as detailed in Appendix 2 of the submitted report be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policy for the provision of education transport facilities.

8. BUS SERVICE 384/385

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on action taken to replace the operator of tendered service 384/385 due to poor performance.

It was reported that during 2008 numerous complaints had been received, including concerns from Ward members, regarding the poor punctuality and reliability of service 384/385.

The Working Group was advised that despite numerous meetings with the operators, the situation had not improved and therefore in May 2009, Metro issued a termination notice to Loonat Coaches on the grounds of failure to provide the specified service.

Since that time, two operators had submitted bids to run the service on an emergency basis. An emergency contract was subsequently issued to the lowest bidder, Huddersfield Bus Company, who commenced operation using a low floor DDA compliant vehicle on 26 May 2009.

The Working Group was advised that given the disruption to the service in recent years, it was proposed to award a 5 year contract to enable a period of stability and restore confidence in the service.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the emergency action taken to secure the continued operation of service 384/385 be noted.
- (b) That the award of a deminimis contract to Centrebus trading as Huddersfield Bus Company for the operation of services 384/385 for a five year period be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policy for local bus services.

9. BATCH 483 - TENDERED SCHOOL BUS SERVICES - LEEDS DISTRICT

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the results of tenders received in Batch 483 for the provision of schools services in the Leeds District administered by Metro on behalf of Leeds LEA as part of the Education Transport Agency Agreement.

RESOLVED – That the award of contracts, 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.