

**WEST YORKSHIRE INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AUTHORITY**  
**AT A MEETING OF THE TENDERED SERVICES WORKING GROUP**  
**HELD AT WELLINGTON HOUSE, LEEDS ON**  
**WEDNESDAY 3 MARCH 2010**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Y Crewe (Chair)

Councillors J Jarosz and A Pinnock

**71. CHAIR**

**RESOLVED** - That Councillor Y Crewe be elected to chair the meeting in the absence of Councillor G Lowe.

**72. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E Firth, G Lowe and K Watson.

**73. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no personal or prejudicial interests declared by members.

**74. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2010 be approved.

**75. WAKEFIELD FREECITYBUS GOOD FRIDAY OPERATION**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive regarding the operation of Wakefield FreeCityBus on Good Friday 2010.

Members were advised that the majority of shops in Wakefield City Centre would be open as normal on Good Friday. In this respect, discussions had been held with the operator of the service, Star Travel, and a cost of £947 had been agreed for the day's operation. It was noted that the cost represented the normal daily rate for the service with premium pay for the drivers. Wakefield Council had agreed to meet this cost on a 50/50 basis with Metro.

**RESOLVED** - That the arrangements made to operate the Wakefield FreeCityBus on Good Friday 2010 be noted.

## **76. BOXING DAY BUS SERVICES 2009**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive regarding the performance of Boxing Day bus services on 26 December 2009 and also considered the operation of services on Boxing Day 2010.

Members were advised that an extensive promotional campaign had been undertaken and, as a result, 53,700 passengers had been attracted to the services, an increase of 10% compared to the previous year. The overall performance of the service and a comparison with previous years was summarised in the report. It was noted that the increase in the fare, together with the patronage growth, had reduced the total net cost and cost per passenger of providing the services. In this respect, services in Leeds had performed better than those in Huddersfield with an average cost recovery of 65%.

The Working Group was informed that Boxing Day 2010 fell on a Sunday with further Bank Holidays on 27 and 28 December. It was confirmed that, as in previous years, the City/Town Centre Managers for each District would be approached to determine the extent of retail activity planned on 26 December 2010. The outcome of these enquiries would inform the network for this year's services, which would be reported to a future meeting of the Working Group.

Members noted that the Boxing Day service had offered significant benefits to local retailers in Huddersfield, Leeds city centre and the out of town shopping centres such as White Rose, Junction 31 and Birstall. However, despite these benefits retailers had been reluctant to provide financial contribution to the continuation of the services. In view of future budgetary constraints, it was reported that further efforts would be taken with the retail sector to secure either direct financial support or significant promotional sponsorship towards the services.

It was further noted that as the Sunday trading hours would apply on Boxing Day 2010, the standard hours of operation would assist travel to work for shop workers, which could encourage a more positive response from the retail sector.

### **RESOLVED -**

- (a)** That the performance of bus services on Boxing Day 2009 be noted.
- (b)** That a further report be submitted to a future meeting of the Working Group detailing the arrangements for Boxing Day 2010.

## **77. BUS SERVICE 78**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive regarding proposed changes to tendered Service 78 in Leeds.

Members were reminded that the service had been provided in 2007 on a 'use it or lose it' basis to provide links from East Leeds to St James' Hospital. It was subsequently extended through Leeds city centre to Woodhouse Moor to reinstate lost links following withdrawal of commercial bus services. Further changes had also been introduced to provide shopping links to Cross Gates from the Halton Moor and Templegates areas.

It was reported that a review of the service had demonstrated that it met Metro's criteria with an average of 8 passengers per trip with between 50 and 60 people using the service daily. The greatest use and strongest element of the service related to travel to and from Cross Gates. However, it was noted that passenger use of the service from St James' hospital and in the Woodhouse Moor area had not been as strong. Limited hospital use could be attributed to the frequent level of alternative bus services to and from the city centre. The term time only 'Uni-link' Service 92, which operated every 20 minutes in the Woodhouse area, had undermined use of the service.

Discussions had been held with First to build on the current strengths of the service and a revised route had now been agreed. The new route would operate Cross Gates - Templegates - Halton Moor - Osmondthorpe - Cross Green - City Centre (Vicar Lane) - St James' Hospital. The service would be renumbered '63'. The service would be extended to also operate on a Saturday.

It was reported that passenger usage did not support the tendered operation of the service in the Woodhouse area. The service would be withdrawn from this area. First had, however, agreed to continue the operation of Service 92 through the Summer break on a trial basis to assess whether the demand from the area was sufficient to sustain the operation of this service all year round.

Members reiterated the importance of wide spread publicity to members of the public regarding the changes to the service(s).

**RESOLVED** - That the proposed changes to tendered Services 78 be noted.

## **78. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The Tendered Services Working Group considered a recommendation to exclude the press and public from Agenda Items 8 and 9, which contained exempt information defined in Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12a Local Government Act 1972.

**RESOLVED** - It was agreed that because disclosure of the report might prejudice the commercial plans of the companies involved, the public interest would be better served by maintaining the exempt information and, therefore, the press and public be now excluded.

**79. APRIL BUS SERVICE CHANGES**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive regarding the proposed changes to local bus services planned for late April and their implications for tendered bus services, as detailed in the submitted report. Consultations that had taken place with local council members effected by the plans was welcomed.

**RESOLVED** - That the planned changes to bus services in April be noted.

**80. BUS SERVICES TO LEEDS BRADFORD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive regarding the award of contracts for the operation of the network of tendered bus services to and from Leeds Bradford International Airport (LBIA), as detailed in the submitted report.

**RESOLVED** -

- (a) That the current position with regard to Service 757 Leeds to Leeds Bradford International Airport be noted.
- (b) That the award of contracts, as detailed in the submitted report, be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policies for the provision of local bus services.
- (c) That the position with regard to the redeployment of vehicles currently used on Service 747 be noted.