

AGENDA ITEM NO: 7(a)

WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

AT A MEETING OF THE TENDERED SERVICES WORKING GROUP HELD IN WELLINGTON HOUSE ON MONDAY 8 AUGUST 2005

PRESENT: Councillor J Akhtar (Chair)

Councillors R Downes, K Iqbal, P McBride, G Phelps and
G Wainwright

73. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Akhtar declared a prejudicial interest in minute 81, Batch 392 Schools Taxi and Minibus Tenders in the Leeds District 2005/2006. He vacated the room and took no part in the discussions or voting thereon.

Councillor Wainwright declared a prejudicial interest in minute 82, Bus Services 502 and 526, North Halifax area. He vacated the room and took no part in the discussions or voting thereon. He also declared a personal interest in minute 80, Tendered School Taxi Contracts – Batch 377 Calderdale District.

74. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 June 2005 be approved.

75. BATCH 388 – LOCAL DAYTIME MINIBUS SERVICES IN HUDDERSFIELD

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the award of tenders as advertised in Batch 388 for local daytime minibuss services in Huddersfield.

It was reported that the batch had been prepared from a large Kirklees batch and comprised a small number of daytime services which had resulted in an increase in the number of bids received particularly from smaller operators. A breakdown of the tender awards were provided.

- Services 303 and 308 Huddersfield - Scapegoat Hill : First
- Services 254 and 355 Huddersfield - South Crossland : Yorkshire Traction
- Service 268 Huddersfield - Almondbury : Yorkshire Traction

- Services 374 and 375 Huddersfield - Dalton Cow Heys/Woodedge Avenue : Yorkshire Traction
- Services 384 and 389 Huddersfield - Abbey Road/Brighouse : Fair Rider
- Service 389 Slaithwaite - Meltham : E Stott and Sons
- Services 39, 391, 396 and 397 Huddersfield - Colne Valley Circular : E Stott and Sons

Comment was made as to what systems Metro had in place to ensure that the operators complied with the tender specification. In response it was reported that Metro had a contract compliance regime and employed officers to monitor tendered services. Financial penalties were imposed on operators who failed to run tendered services to the contract specification.

RESOLVED - That the award of contracts to operate daytime minibuss services in the Huddersfield area, as detailed in the submitted report, be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policy for the provision of local bus services.

76. WHARFE VALLEY RURAL SERVICES – BATCH 389

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the award of tenders as advertised in Batch 389 for the renewal of local minibuss services in the Wharfe Valley.

The Working Group were reminded that following completion of the Wharfe Valley Transport Study which was commissioned to consider accessibility issues and taking into account Metro's own 'Value for Money' procedures, amendments to the local tendered network had been incorporated within the batch specification which had led to a net increase in the annual tendered mileage, primarily to facilitate the provision of peak hour services in Ilkley to link commuters to the rail stations.

It was reported that the tenders had to be re-advertised as the first batch of tenders were either invalid or too expensive. Following re-tendering bids were submitted by First and Pegasus Executive Travel both of whom had tendered individual prices for each contract together with combined prices for multiple tender awards. Awards had been progressed to achieve the lowest cost for the Batch.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the award of a contract to Pegasus Executive Travel to operate the following services be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policy for local bus services:
- Services 960, 961, 962 and 964 Otley to Ilkley services
 - Service 967 Otley to Menston Rail link service

(b) That the award of a contract to First to operate the following services be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policy for local bus services:

- Service 966 Guiseley/Yeadon local service
- Service 963 Ilkley and Otley to Bradford evening service
- Evening and Sunday tendered trips on commercial service W10

77. EMERGENCY CONTRACT - STAINLAND ROAD CLOSURE, CALDERDALE

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the award of an emergency contract to operate a shuttle service arising from the temporary closure of Stainland Road due to gas main works.

Members were informed that following lengthy discussions, Transco had agreed to make a contribution towards the provision of an hourly feeder service to serve Stainland Road and Holywell Green to West Vale enabling passengers to interchange with services to Halifax and Huddersfield. The services would operate Mondays to Saturdays for a 12 hour period for the duration of the works. It was reported that an agreement had been reached with First to divert Service 539 in order to maintain services on Sundays.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the award of emergency contracts to Fair Rider to maintain services in the Stainland area be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policy for local bus services.
- (b) That officers be congratulated in resolving this issue to a satisfactory conclusion.

78. IMPACT OF BUS SERVICE CHANGES

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on revisions to tendered bus services from Low Ackworth to Pontefract and Yeadon to Greengates, as a result of changes to commercial bus services.

Service 248 (Upton, South Elmsall, Hemsworth, Low Ackworth, Pontefract)

It was reported that Yorkshire Traction had indicated their intention to withdraw the service between Hemsworth and Pontefract. This would remove access to bus services to Low Ackworth, reduce the frequency in East Hardwick and remove the service from parts of South Pontefract. The commercial operation of this previously tendered service had subsequently been affected by abstraction of college students by another commercial operator. Patronage on the affected route met Metro's criteria for support.

Following invitations to bid for a de minimis contract, a contract had been awarded to Yorkshire Traction for the continuation of the service.

Service 647/651 (Yeadon to Greengates)

The withdrawal of Service 647 and 651 which removed services from Apperley Bridge had led to strong opposition from the public. Following consultations a replacement service was introduced on a trial use it or lose it basis until October 2005. Initial survey results showed that patronage levels were encouraging with some mid-morning services meeting Metro's criteria for support. On this basis it was noted that the contract would be extended until April 2006 to assess the service over a full twelve month period.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the award of a contract to Yorkshire Traction to operate service 248 be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policy for local bus services.
- (b) That the extension of the de minimis contract to First until the end of April 2006 be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policy for local bus services.

79. BATCH 381 – TENDERED SCHOOL TAXI AND MINIBUS SERVICES – WAKEFIELD DISTRICT

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the results of tenders received in Batch 381 for the provision of schools taxi and minibus services in the Wakefield District including those administered by Metro on behalf on Wakefield Education Authority as part of the Education Transport Agency Agreement.

It was reported that the awards had been progressed on a minimum cost basis to secure the lowest cost for the batch as a whole and were awarded to licensed PCV minibus or licensed taxi and Private Hire operators. These included awards to four new operators which would be subject to satisfactory vehicle inspections by Metro. Members also noted that a number of tenders had been awarded to existing operators which had received formal warnings for performance during the 2004/05 academic year and that these were subject to a one term probationary period.

RESOLVED - That the award of tenders as detailed in Appendix 1 of the submitted report be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policy for the provision of school transport services.

80. BATCH 377 - TENDERED SCHOOL TAXI AND MINIBUS SERVICES - CALDERDALE DISTRICT

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport

Executive on the results of tenders received in Batch 377 for the provision of schools taxi and minibus services in the Calderdale district including those administered by Metro on behalf of Calderdale Education Authority as part of the Education Transport Agency Agreement.

It was reported that the awards had been progressed on a minimum cost basis and were licensed to taxi/Private Hire operators. Members indicated that they were extremely encouraged that the tenders had been awarded to ten new smaller operators.

RESOLVED - That the award of tenders as detailed in Appendix 1 of the submitted report be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policy for the provision of school transport services.

81. BATCH 392 – SCHOOL TAXI AND MINIBUS SERVICES – LEEDS DISTRICT

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the results of tenders received in Batch 392 for the provision of schools taxi and minibus services in the Leeds district including those administered by Metro on behalf of Leeds Education Authority as part of the Education Transport Agency Agreement.

It was reported that tenders had been awarded to existing operators and one new operator who would be subject to the satisfactory vehicle inspection check by Metro.

RESOLVED - That the award of tenders as detailed in the submitted report be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policy for the provision of school transport services.

Councillor Phelps chaired the meeting during consideration of this item.

82. BATCH 378 – TENDERED SCHOOL SERVICES – BRADFORD, CALDERDALE, LEEDS AND WAKEFIELD DISTRICTS

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the results of tenders received in Batch 378 for the provision of school services in Bradford, Calderdale, Leeds and Wakefield Districts including those administered by Metro on behalf of the LEA's as part of the Education Transport Agency Agreement.

It was reported that the batch had attracted a high level of competition with a total of 16 operators bidding for contracts.

RESOLVED - That the award of tenders 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.

83. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED - That the press and public now be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that if they were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information defined in Part 1 (Paragraphs 7, 8 and 9) of schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972.

84. SERVICES 502 AND 526 – NORTH HALIFAX AREA

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the actions taken to secure the continuation of services following changes to commercial services in the North Halifax area affecting services 502 and 526.

RESOLVED - That the actions taken as detailed in the submitted report be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policy for the provision of Education Transport facilities.

85. HOLME VALLEY MINIBUS SERVICES – RURAL BATCH 390

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on tenders received for the operation of the Holme Valley minibus service network.

It was reported that services H1/2, H3, H4, H5 and H7 were performing well and had continued to operate in accordance with the Authority's criteria for tendered services. However, despite considerable marketing by Metro and Holme Valley Parish Council, patronage on Service H2, H6/9 and H8/10 had consistently been low. Regardless of its performance, and at the request of Holme Valley Parish Council, bids were invited to retain the service. The bids received did not represent value for money and the service had been withdrawn.

Councillor Wainwright commented on the confusion amongst the general public with regard to commercial and tendered services. He suggested that in order to be more transparent and accountable Metro's timetables should indicate those services which were tendered and therefore publicly subsidised.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the award of contracts for the Holme Valley Minibus services be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policy for the provision of local bus services.
- (b) That the suggestion made by Councillor Wainwright be investigated

with a view to referring this matter back to the group initially and to the Facilities Working Group who were responsible for overseeing the policy in relation to Passenger Information.

86. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

RESOLVED - That future meetings of the Working Group be held on the following dates at 10.30am:

- Monday 22 August 2005
- Wednesday 28 September 2005
- Wednesday 2 November 2005
- Wednesday 30 November 2005
- Wednesday 4 January 2006
- Wednesday 1 February 2006
- Wednesday 1 March 2006
- Wednesday 29 March 2006
- Wednesday 26 April 2006
- Wednesday 31 May 2006

WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY
AT A MEETING OF THE TENDERED SERVICES WORKING GROUP
HELD IN WELLINGTON HOUSE ON
MONDAY 22 AUGUST 2005

PRESENT: Councillor J Akhtar (Chair)

Councillors M Bower, K Iqbal, P McBride, K Rhodes and
G Wainwright

87. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Downes and G Phelps.

88. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor M Bower declared a personal interest in Minute 89 – Holme Valley Minibus Services – Rural Batch 390.

89. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 August 2005 be approved.

90. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED - That the press and public now be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that if they were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information defined in Part 1 (Paragraphs 7, 8 and 9) of schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972.

91. ACCESSBUS CONTRACTS

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the extension of current contracts to operate Accessbus services and the award of a 12 month contract for Accessbus Services in the Wakefield area.

It was reported that the Accessbus contracts were initially awarded for 3 years and subsequently extended until October 2005 to co-ordinate the re-tendering exercise with the outcome of the Best Value Review of Accessibility. An extension of existing contracts until 2006 would enable the recommendations of the Best Value Review to be incorporated in to the scheduled re-tendering exercise in early 2006.

Accessbus operators in Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees and Leeds were agreeable to extend their existing contracts until October 2006 with some minor adjustments to reflect costs not envisaged when the tenders were awarded in 2001.

With regard to Wakefield MDC, Members were advised that following an internal review of their services, all Council transport resources would in future be dedicated to the delivery of Social Care Services and they would be unable to provide the services beyond 2005. Tenders were therefore invited for the 12 month period to coincide with the expiry date and of the 19 suppliers who had expressed an interest 4 bids had been submitted.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the extension of the operating contracts for Accessbus services in Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees and Leeds be noted.
- (b) That the award of a contract to B L Travel, to provide Accessbus services in the Wakefield District for a 12 month period be noted.

92. YELLOWBUS TENDER AWARD – PHASE 2

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the results of the tenders received in Batch 383 for Phase 2 of the My Bus scheme.

It was reported that of the 22 companies who had expressed an interest 11 bids had been received with each operator submitting four separate prices for:

- The annual price for the tendered service.
- The annual cost of vehicle maintenance.
- The cost per hour for linked trips to primary schools.
- The cost per hour for private hire journeys.

On the basis of the bids received and subsequent meetings which had been held with the tenderers, operator profiles and summaries of key issues/risks of each tenderers had been taken into consideration in the evaluation of tenders. The evaluation had particular regard to staff recruitment/retention, driver suitability, facilities/premises, understanding and appreciation of MyBus and their commitment to the long term success of the scheme.

The Working Group stressed that in order to achieve and deliver a high quality scheme it was essential that the operators had procedures in place to be able to recruit and retain drivers. The key factor in ensuring the success of the scheme hinged was the good relationship developed between the driver, school children and the school.

The delivery of a high quality scheme was critical to ensure the release of funding for future phases and the wider roll of the scheme.

Each option received had been assessed on the basis of:-

- Cost
- Overall bid quality and added value
- A range of risk factors
- A key risk criterion relating to introduction of new entrants to the West Yorkshire and yellow bus market

On that basis it was proposed to award contracts to:-

- 16 vehicle operation to CT Plus
- 41 vehicle operation to First
- 3 vehicle operation to Teamdeck

It was reported that future options for call centre operations would be further investigated with CT Plus who had offered to undertake that role as part of their tender submission. Members expressed concern that this function be outsourced and supported the continuation of an independent in-house facility.

RESOLVED - That the awards of 'Option 6' as detailed in the submitted report be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policies for the provision of school transport services.