



DRAFT Report of the Director of Development

Executive Board

Date: 16 August 2006

Subject: DEPUTATION TO COUNCIL, 21 JUNE 2006
WETHERBY TO TADCASTER BUS SERVICE

Electoral Wards Affected:

All

Specific Implications For:

Ethnic minorities

Women

Disabled people

Narrowing the Gap

Eligible for Call In

Not Eligible for Call In

(Details contained in the report)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report informs Executive Board in relation to the deputation received by Council on the 21 June 2006 concerning the withdrawal of the 780 bus service between Wetherby and Tadcaster, via Boston Spa.

Harrogate and District Travel, the local operator, withdrew the 780 bus service between Wetherby and Tadcaster in April 2006.

The 780 bus service provides a cross-boundary route between West Yorkshire and North Yorkshire. Responsibility for the service lies with North Yorkshire County Council and the West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Authority (Metro).

Following representations by the local community North Yorkshire County Council have provisionally agreed to fund a two hourly service (781) between Wetherby and Tadcaster, via Boston Spa, which has operated on an experimental basis since April 2006.

North Yorkshire County Council are currently considering an extension of the experimental service whilst the long-term future of the route is reviewed.

1.0 Purpose Of This Report

- 1.1 This report provides information relating to the deputation received by Council at the 21 June 2006 meeting in connection with the withdrawal of the 780 bus service between Wetherby and Tadcaster via Boston Spa.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 A deputation from Boston Spa and Clifford Parish Councils was heard by the 21 June 2006 meeting of Council. The subject of this was the recent withdrawal of the 780 bus service between Wetherby and Tadcaster via Boston Spa. A copy of the deputation is attached.
- 2.2 The 780 bus service operated hourly between Wetherby and Tadcaster but was withdrawn by Harrogate and District Travel in April 2006. The service provided a link to Wetherby and Tadcaster from the south east part of Boston Spa. Harrogate and District Travel withdrew the service on the basis that there were insufficient passengers using it to support a commercial service between the towns.
- 2.3 Concerns have been raised by the local community, including Councillors and MPs, regarding the implications of the withdrawal of the service for local residents.
- 2.4 As Members will be aware Leeds City Council does not have a statutory responsibility for the co-ordination, provision or financial support of bus services which, in West Yorkshire, lies with the West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Authority working through the Passenger Transport Executive (Metro).
- 2.5 As a Local Transport Authority and Highway Authority the Council works with Metro to develop and implement a Local Transport Plan in line with the requirements of the Transport Act 2000. Metro has also produced a Bus Strategy which forms part of the Local Transport Plan. Through the Local Transport Plan process the Council has an input to Metro's public transport policies but does not have any powers in relation to the provision of services.
- 2.6 The 780 bus service provides a cross-boundary route between West Yorkshire and North Yorkshire; the majority of the route falls within North Yorkshire. Responsibility for the service lies with the transport authorities North Yorkshire County Council and the Metro. As an interim measure an experimental two hourly service has been funded by North Yorkshire County Council since April 2006 whilst the future of the route is investigated.

3.0 Main Issues

- 3.1 The deputation's concerns regarding the effects of the withdrawal of the 780 bus service on the residents of Boston Spa, Clifford and Braham were as follows:
- The excessive time which will be required to make the journey to Tadcaster which will involve taking a bus into Leeds to connect to an alternative service
 - Access to facilities, services and employment for those reliant on public transport
 - Access to Tadcaster for connections to York and Selby
 - Loss of the only regular bus service serving the eastern end of Boston Spa
 - The environmental impacts of additional journeys by car
- 3.2 Within the Leeds City Council area the service provides a link to Wetherby from the south east part of Boston Spa. However, most of the village is served by the service 770 which provides half hourly links to Wetherby and Leeds.
- 3.3 North Yorkshire County Council are funding a two hourly service (781) between Wetherby and Tadcaster, via Boston Spa, which has operated on an experimental basis since April 2006.

- 3.4 Passenger surveys were carried out on the service in May 2006. The evidence suggests that the service benefits approximately 50 people per day, mostly travelling for shopping/personal business. 25% of people used the service for work travel, with Tadcaster being the most popular destination for work purposes.
- 3.5 North Yorkshire County Council are currently considering an extension of the provisional service until April 2007 whilst the long-term future of the service is reviewed.
- 3.6 Metro is working with North Yorkshire County Council to consider options for the long-term future of the service.

4.0 Implications For Council Policy And Governance

- 4.1 This report does not raise any specific implications for Council policy and Governance. The issue of public transport provision is an issue for the Local Transport Plan and the Bus Strategy, which has been prepared by Metro in conjunction with its local authority partners. The issue of bus service provision is one which affects all members of the community and is a key transport policy issue.
- 4.2 The issues raised in this report may have implications for the policies of North Yorkshire County Council and Metro, as the public transport authorities responsible for the provision of the service.

5.0 Legal And Resource Implications

- 5.1 This report has no specific legal and resource implications.

6.0 Conclusions

- 6.1 This report has outlined the issues relating to the deputation to Council concerning the withdrawal of the 780 bus service from Wetherby to Tadcaster, via Boston Spa. Leeds City Council does not have statutory powers to intervene in relation to the procurement and specification of bus services.
- 6.2 North Yorkshire County Council and Metro are the transport authorities responsible for the provision of the 780 bus service. Since April 2006 North Yorkshire County Council has funded an experimental service to allow further investigation to take place into the long-term future of the route.
- 6.3 Metro is working with North Yorkshire County Council to consider options for the long-term future of the service.

7.0 Recommendations

- 7.1 Members are requested to note the contents of this report.

8.0 Background Information

- 8.1 The following documents provide background information for this report:

i) Deputation to Leeds City Council concerning the withdrawal of the 780 bus service from Wetherby to Tadcaster via Boston Spa.