



## TRANSFER OF MIDLAND RED ROUTES TO WMPTE

### Comprehensive changeover on December 3

FROM December 3, 1973, those bus services of the Birmingham and Midland Motor Omnibus Co Ltd which operated wholly within the West Midlands Metropolitan County area were transferred to the ownership of the West Midlands Passenger Transport Executive.

The object of the merger was to bring all stage carriage services in the metropolitan county under the control of the WMPTE and while the full benefit of the merger, a co-ordinated and integrated service to the public, will not be achieved immediately progress in this direction

ABOVE: A West Midlands Daimler Fleetline and a BMMO D9 still in red but duly bearing the new fleetname and legal owner

BELOW: With suitably evolved wording one of the WMPTE travelling offices ready to cope with the demand for travelcards





has already begun. At the same time 16 West Midlands services in the Wolverhampton area were transferred to Midland Red.

The transfer to the pte involved 1500 people and over 400 buses with, of course, the organisation that enables them to operate, is considered to be one of the most complex of its kind in the history of bus operation in Britain. Progressively, these buses are being painted in the pte colours of blue and cream, but at first they will still be red, although WM insignia was applied to all the buses within a few days.

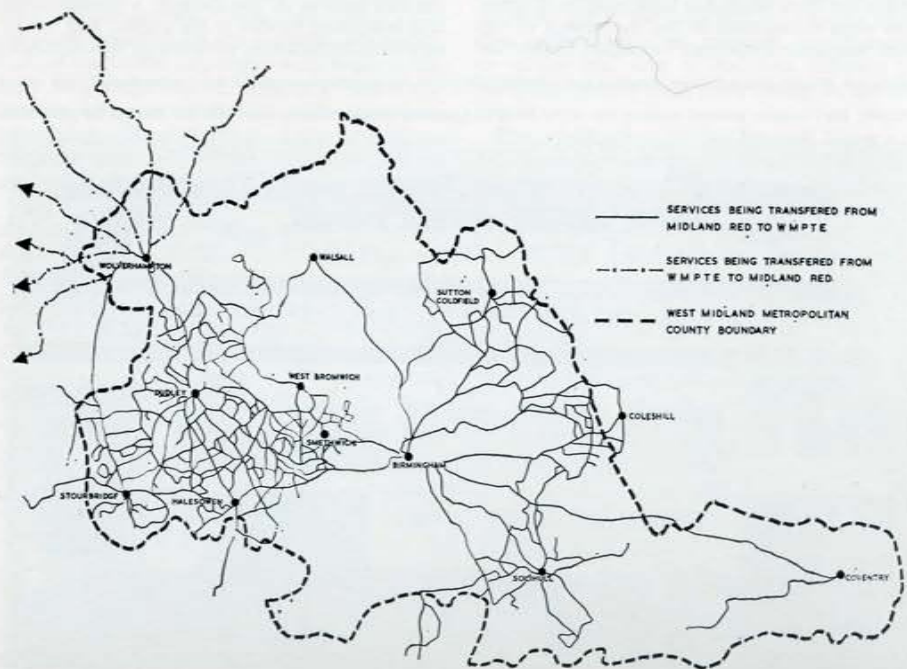
#### Services transferred

The following bus services hitherto operated by Midland Red were transferred to West Midlands PTE from December 3.

Route Numbers	Brief description of route
X2	Birmingham-Halesowen-Hasbury (Limited stop)
B39	Brierley Hill-Upper Pensnett Estate
D1	Dudley-Priory Estate (Castle Mill Road)
D2	Dudley-Priory Estate (Hillside Road)
D3/D4	Dudley-Russells Hall circular
D5	Dudley-Cradley Heath via Darby End
D6	Dudley-Gornal Wood
D9	Dudley-Cradley Heath via Grazebrook
D10	Dudley-Netherton-Lodge Farm
D11	Dudley-Priory Estate (Linwood Road)
D17	Dudley-Woodside
D40	Dudley-Gornal Wood
D41	Dudley-Gornal Wood-Stickley Estate
S46	Stourbridge-Norton Estate (Eveson Road)
S47	Stourbridge-Wynall
S48/S49	Stourbridge-Pedmore Fields Circular
S50	Stourbridge-High Park

S52/S53	Stourbridge-Wollaston Farm Circular
S55	Solihull-Knowle Circular
S56	Stourbridge-Norton Estate (St George's Road)
S57	Wells Green-Solihull-Hall Green
S62/S63	Sutton Coldfield Circular
S65	Chester Road-Falcon Lodge-Sutton Coldfield
S66	Sutton Coldfield-Falcon Lodge
S71	Sutton Coldfield-Walmley-Erdington
S74	Sutton Coldfield-Wishaw
105	Birmingham-Walmley-Sutton Coldfield
107	Birmingham-New Oscott-Sutton Coldfield
111	Birmingham-Sutton Coldfield-Roughley
113	Birmingham-New Oscott-Hardwick Arms
114	Birmingham-Walmley-Sutton Coldfield
120/121/122	Birmingham-Langley-Oldbury-Dudley
123/124	Birmingham-Blackheath-Brickhouse Farm
125/126	Birmingham-Dudley-Wolverhampton
130	Birmingham-Halesowen-Stourbridge
134/135	Bearwood-Halesowen-Hasbury
136	Birmingham-Romsley Hospital
137	Birmingham-Brierley Hill-Gornal Wood
138	Birmingham-Brierley Hill-Kingswinford
140/141	Birmingham-Blackheath-Dudley
152/155	Birmingham-Solihull-Knowle
154	Birmingham-Shirley-Solihull
158	Birmingham-Solihull-Hampton in Arden
159	Birmingham-Coventry
160	Birmingham-Kingshurst
161/171	Birmingham-Coleshill Circulars
162	Birmingham-Chelmsley Wood (Greenlands Road)
163	Birmingham-Chelmsley Wood (Chelmsley Road)
166	Solihull-Chelmsley Wood-Sutton Coldfield
168	Birmingham-Coleshill
169	Birmingham-Chelmsley Wood (Berwicks Lane)
170/172	Acocks Green-Wythall
174	Acocks Green-Sheldon
175	Shirley-Chelmsley Wood

A sketch map showing Midland Red routes which have passed to pte control and those which have been transferred in the opposite direction



176	Birmingham-Sheldon-Solihull
181	Birmingham-Cranmore
182/187	Birmingham-Solihull-Dorridge
183	Birmingham-Shirley
184	Birmingham-Solihull-Damsonwood
193	Birmingham-Chelmsley Wood (Greenlands Road)
194/195	Birmingham-Chelmsley Wood (Arran Way)
200/201	Smethwick-Warley-Worlds End
202	Cradley Heath-Blackheath-Quinton
203	Smethwick-Brandhall
205	Dudley-Blackheath-Hasbury
206	Bearwood-Halesowen-Romsley
208	Bearwood-Woodgate
209	Halesowen-Woodgate
210	Oldbury-Smethwick-Handsworth
211/212	Londonderry Circle
213/214	Oldbury-Handsworth
215/216/225	Bearwood-Oldbury-Quinton
217/218	Oldbury-Blackheath-Hayley Green
219	Oldbury-Oakham
223	Causeway Green-Soho Foundry
226	Halesowen-Dudley-Bilston
227	Oldbury-Portway-Dudley
228	Lye Cross-Dudley
229	Bearwood-Oldbury-Blackheath
230	Blackheath-Dudley
231	Blackheath-Cradley Heath
232	Blackheath-Old Hill
233	Bearwood-Warley-Oldbury
234/235	Cradley Heath-Halesowen-Hasbury Circle
236	Stourbridge-Brierley Hill-Wordsley
237	Cradley Heath-Bromley
238/239	Fatherless Barn-Cradley Heath-Dudley
240/241	Cradley Heath-Stourbridge
242	Cradley Heath-Quarry Bank-Stourbridge
243/244	Cradley Heath-Dudley-Weanbury
245/6/7/8	Stourbridge-Dudley-Wednesbury
250	Stourbridge-Kinver
251	Coseley-Bilston
256/257	Stourbridge-Wall Heath-Wolverhampton
258	Brierley Hill-Stourbridge
259/260/1	Dudley-Kingswinford-Swindon
262	Dudley-Gospel Oak-Bilston
263/266	Brierley Hill-Kingswinford
270	Dudley-Princes End-Bilston
271	Dudley-Coseley-Bilston
272	Sedgley-Great Bridge
278	Dudley-Prestwood Hospital
281	Dudley-Wolverhampton
282	Brierley Hill-Wall Heath
569	Coventry-Balsall Common
862	Wednesbury-Darleston-Willenhall
863	Sedgley-Bilston-Rocket Pool (This service was renumbered 63)
867	Wednesbury-Darleston Green (This service was renumbered 67)
880	Wolverhampton-Rounds Green-Oldbury (This service was renumbered 88)
The following new service number has been given to short journeys on the 112 service (not itself transferred):—	
102	Birmingham and Sutton Coldfield (Clarence Road)
The following services, previously jointly operated by Midland Red and West Midland, are now wholly operated by WMPTE:—	
86	Birmingham-Smethwick-Oldbury
87	Birmingham-Oldbury-Dudley
118	Birmingham-Walsall
220	Bearwood-Smethwick-West Bromwich
221	Bearwood-Warley-West Bromwich
252	Portland Road-West Bromwich-Wednesbury
265	Dudley-Walsall-Cannock-Hednesford
268	Wolverhampton-West Bromwich-Yew Tree (This service was renumbered 2)
375/377	Walsall-Sutton Coldfield circular



The bus stop sign produced for stops common to both undertakings

The following services operating west and north of Wolverhampton were transferred from WMPTE to Midland Red. They were given new Midland Red service numbers as shown in brackets:—

17	Wolverhampton-Bridgnorth	(890)
18	Wolverhampton-Claverley	(888)
19	Wolverhampton-Cosford	(883)
21	Wolverhampton-Cannock	(872)
22	Wolverhampton-Wheaton Aston	(877)
27	Wolverhampton-Beckbury	(874)
31	Wolverhampton-Bridgnorth	(889)
39	Wolverhampton-Albrighton	(882)
40	Wolverhampton-Brinsford	(871)
48	Wolverhampton-Bobbington	(887)
49	Wolverhampton-Tong Norton	(885)
52	Wolverhampton-Brewood	(878)
53	Wolverhampton-Blymhill	(879)
54	Wolverhampton-Trysull	(886)
83	Wolverhampton-Bishops Wood	(879)
89	Wolverhampton-Donington	(884)

Joint service 865, now operating only between Walsall and Stafford, was also transferred to Midland Red; the section between Dudley and Walsall was covered by WMPTE service 265.

#### Cross-boundary services

Midland Red bus services to towns outside the county boundary have been maintained by

Midland Red to timetables which were largely unchanged. Within the metropolitan county, these Midland Red cross-boundary services are run as agreed with the pte. To assist passengers on all routes where pte blue buses, pte red buses and Midland Red cross-boundary buses operate, each bus stop plate makes clear which of these services use that particular stop. This extensive project involved more than 1000 separate bus stops.

The actual number of buses involved in the transfer was 413, of which 226 were double-deck. These comprised 136 Daimler Fleetlines (21 D11s, 65 D12s, 50 D13s) and 90 BMMO D9s. Single-deckers comprised 33 Leyland Nationals, 19 Leyland Leopards (S18) and 135 BMMOs. The last can be subdivided into 14 S16s, 79 S17s, 8 S21s, 9 S22s and 25 S23s. Prior to the transfer one S17 (5762) and one Fleetline D13 (6269) were repainted in blue and cream and allocated respectively to Stourbridge and Oldbury for

operation on the day. The Midland Red garages at Stourbridge, Brierley Hill (Hartshill), Dudley, Oldbury, Birmingham (Sheepcote Street) and Sutton Coldfield were transferred, as well as the travel centres at Dudley bus station and Sutton Coldfield (The Parade), are also included in the transfer.

### Fares

Single fares were not altered on that date but as the first step to integration, passengers were able to use the increasingly popular go-anywhere Travelcard season tickets on all PTE red buses in addition to all blue buses. The Travelcard prices (£4 for four weeks for an adult, for example) remained unchanged despite the considerably increased extent of their availability. Sizeable savings were thus be possible for regular travellers covering distances of over 2 miles or so on pte red bus routes or whose journeys involved two routes whether they were red or blue.