

APPENDIX 6.1
(referred to in paragraphs 2.43 and 6.2)

Chronology of events in Darlington

March 1986	DTC incorporated under the provisions of the Transport Act 1985.
August 1986	United registered its first service operating within Darlington.
February 1988	DTC asked DBC to consider sale of company to employees on a single bid basis.
April 1989	A DBC report found that 170 buses an hour were using Prebend Row in town centre, double the pre-deregulation number. The period of initial intense competition between United and DTC came to an end in 1989.
December 1990	Valuation report on DTC submitted. Two MEBO offers eventually submitted but no sale was concluded.
December 1991	DBC survey found that 86.5 per cent of those questioned believed the number of buses in the town centre should be reduced.
6 August 1992	DBC asked Minister for permission to sell DTC to management and employees on a single bid basis. This was refused, and DBC decided not to proceed with a sale.
27 May 1993	Entry of Your Bus. United doubled frequencies on competing routes.
July 1993	DCC called meeting of operators to discuss congestion problems.
January 1994	Busways conducted preliminary investigation in Darlington. DBC drew up proposals to divert buses from the town centre.
7 July 1994	DTC Board wrote to DBC's Director of Central Services recommending that the council sell its shareholding in DTC.
12 July 1994	DBC announced its intention to sell DTC. DTC branch of TGWU met and discussed hopes that the company would be acquired by a major group. United registered additional routes in Darlington immediately after DBC's announcement.
19 July 1994	DBC took formal decision to sell DTC.
26 July 1994	Sale of Busways to Stagecoach completed.
29 July 1994	KPMG appointed as DBC's financial adviser. DTC requested a loan of £80,000 from DBC to finance acquisition of new vehicles in response to United's registrations.
24 August 1994	Information memorandum issued to 16 interested parties.
8 September 1994	Busways registered services on four routes in Darlington to take effect from 12 December 1994.
12 September 1994	The first of United's new services began.
14 September 1994	11 indicative offers received for DTC.

20 September 1994	Busways submitted revised competitive bid.
22 September 1994	Bidders notified of short list: Badgerline, Busways and Yorkshire Traction.
26 September 1994	Three short-listed bidders visited DTC this week to obtain further information.
29 September 1994	Busways directors met DTC workforce and TGWU during visit to DTC. Workers expressed support for Busways bid.
14 October 1994	Final sealed offers received. Yorkshire Traction made the highest bid of £1.44 million.
21 October 1994	Stagecoach announced a conditional offer for the share capital of Cleveland Transit.
24 October 1994	All three bidders informed that Yorkshire Traction was selected as preferred bidder.
25 October 1994	Busways withdrew its bid for DTC. Chairman of DTC's branch of TGWU telephoned Busways. At subsequent meeting he told Busways a majority of the workforce wished to join it.
27 October 1994	Busways' new division, Stagecoach Darlington, advertised in morning press for drivers. In the afternoon Yorkshire Traction talked to KPMG about recruitment campaign and defection of four employees to Stagecoach. Yorkshire Traction stated that if this trend were to continue it would be reducing its bid.
28 October 1994	Busways cancelled the registrations made in September and replaced them with registrations for all DTC's commercial routes, to be effective from 12 December. Interviews for drivers began and continued over weekend.
31 October 1994	Some 60 of DTC's drivers (of a total of 90) had resigned giving seven days' notice expiring on or before 7 November. Yorkshire Traction visited DTC to talk with KPMG and DBC about renegotiating its offer and learned of the resignations.
1 November 1994	A local newspaper reported that Busways intended to run newly-registered services without fares for five weeks prior to 12 December. DCC noted this and informed Busways that non-registered services could not use town centre stops and streets.
2 November 1994	Yorkshire Traction withdrew its offer to purchase DTC. KPMG approached Busways which said it was not interested in buying the company.
3 November 1994	Badgerline also withdrew its bid. DTC told Traffic Commissioner it was unlikely that it would be able to operate its registered services from 7 November because of a lack of drivers.
4 November 1994	Busways wrote to Traffic Commissioner asking for dispensation to run registered services, whether free or not, from 7 November. This was refused.
7 November 1994	Stagecoach Darlington started running services in Darlington with free fares. DBC approached United but it declined to make an offer for

	DTC.
8 November 1994	Traffic Commissioner wrote to Busways declining its request for dispensation to commence operating registered local services.
9 November 1994	DTC directors decided to appoint an administrator to wind up the company.
10 November 1994	The administration process, and the appointment of Touche Ross as administrator, were ratified through the High Court.
11 November 1994	The administrator withdrew the stage carriage services of DTC.
15 November 1994	Cleveland Transit became part of Stagecoach group. Busways wrote to Traffic Commissioner requesting that dispensation to run registered services be reconsidered.
18 November 1994	Stagecoach announced a conditional offer for the share capital of Hartlepool Transport.
21 November 1994	Traffic Commissioner granted Stagecoach Darlington permission to run registered services from 28 November 1994.
24 November 1994	West Midlands Travel purchased Westcourt Bus Group, the parent company of United.
28 November 1994	Stagecoach Darlington given dispensation to run registered services from this date by Traffic Commissioner (originally 12 December). Free fares terminated. Commercial bus services, charging fares, commenced from town centre bus stops. First week's takings donated to local charity.
10 December 1994	It was announced that West Midlands Travel had acquired the assets of Your Bus.
12 December 1994	Hartlepool Transport became part of Stagecoach group.
16 December 1994	Your Bus ceased trading thus leaving two operators, United and Stagecoach Darlington, in Darlington.
January 1995	Stagecoach Darlington removed discounts on return fares, restoring them to 1993 levels.
10 January 1995	DCC called meeting with Stagecoach Darlington and United in effort to bring end to town centre congestion.
7 February 1995	Stagecoach Darlington and United issued a joint statement announcing service cuts in Darlington to take effect on 26 March.
27 February 1995	Traffic Commissioner called United, Busways and Your Bus to a public inquiry following breaches of a Traffic Regulation Order in Darlington town centre.
March 1995	OFT report on United's actions in Darlington published. Traffic Commissioner announced reductions in operators' licence durations.
26 March 1995	New reduced service levels introduced in Darlington.
1 May 1995	Cleveland Transit took over responsibility for Stagecoach Darlington from Busways.