

WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

**AT A MEETING OF THE CALDERDALE PASSENGER CONSULTATIVE
COMMITTEE HELD IN THE TOWN HALL, HALIFAX
ON TUESDAY 8 APRIL 2008**

PRESENT: Councillor G Wainwright (Chair)

WYPTA

T Swift

PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES

N Hull
P Melling
H Dobson
N Ricketts

P Stocks
J Sykes
J Whiteley

CALDERDALE MBC

B Collins
C Townley
K Watson

Also in attendance:

P Flanagan	-	First
N Walsh	-	Halifax Bus Company
D Haley	-	Northern

12. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from public representatives Vic Duke and Elizabeth Wood.

13. MINUTES

Further to minute 10, Real Time Information Update, comment was made that the electronic displays which had recently been installed in some bus shelters were extremely useful and an excellent innovation.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2008 be approved.

14. MEMBER FEEDBACK

The Committee considered a report advising members of the feedback received at the meeting of the Committee held on 15 January 2008 and to report on action taken.

With regard to the consultation item on Information Provision presented to the previous meeting, it was suggested that bus stop information should state "via" to distinguish circuitous routes from more direct routes.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

15. INFORMATION REPORT

The Committee considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on information regarding current developments and issues affecting the Calderdale District.

Halifax Rail Station

Members welcomed Network Rail's proposals to carry out extensive renewal works for the canopy and footbridge at the rail station between May and December 2009. It was reported that in the short term, Northern and Metro would carry out some minor cosmetic improvements to the waiting room and footbridge interior.

Brighouse Rail Services

It was reported that the Leeds-Dewsbury-Brighouse-Hebden Bridge service had been restored following the remedial works which had been carried out following the landslide earlier in the year. The Committee passed their thanks on to Northern and Metro for their efforts in retaining a rail service during the disruption. However it was requested that consideration be given to improving the provision of information to passengers when rail journeys were being substituted by bus services.

Service 530

Members welcomed the introduction of the new hourly Service 530 following requests to improve links to Calderdale College and the hospital. The service would be introduced on 28 April 2008 on a trial 'use it or lose it' basis for one year.

The Committee discussed the provision of bus services and links to hospitals and health centres. Comment was made that it was expensive for people who had to use more than one bus to access hospitals and it would be useful for information regarding ticketing options and buses serving hospitals to be advertised more widely, especially in bus stations.

Bus Services in the Elland and Ryburn Areas

The Committee were advised that from 28 April 2008, the MC4 service would be extended to provide an hourly service and would link Elland with the Lowfields employment area during peak times. The service would be routed

to serve Brighouse rail station and the timetable would be co-ordinated to meet trains to and from Leeds.

With regard to the Ryburn Valley area, it was reported that the DfT funding for the operation of the TaxiBus service would cease in June 2008. Metro was assessing the usage of the service and reviewing the local bus network with a view to adapting local services to meet the travel needs currently provided by the TaxiBus.

Stainland Road, West Vale

It was noted that Stainland Road had been reopened following its 12 month closure and bus services had reverted to their former routes. Comment was made that residents in the Old Ainleys area had welcomed the rerouting of services during the road closure and it was suggested that the Service 501 route could operate hourly through the daytime to provide links to Calderdale Infirmary and Huddersfield. It was reported that the service was operated on a commercial basis and Metro would raise the matter with operators.

Halifax – Denholme Service 504

It was reported that new low floor accessible buses would be introduced on the hourly Service 504 which operated between Halifax, Bradshaw and Denholme.

New Rail Station Prioritisation

Members were advised that following the last review of proposed new rail stations for West Yorkshire, new guidance had been published which focused on four key areas – operational, engineering, business case and policy fit.

It was noted that due to changes to the structure of the rail industry, capacity constraints, increased passenger demand and construction costs, there was a need to refresh the list of previously identified sites in RailPlan 5 together with any new suggested sites. Consultants had been commissioned to undertake the work and, as part of the study, they would develop an assessment framework that would assess each proposed station. It was anticipated that the study would lead to a new prioritised list of potential new rail station sites and the results of the study would be considered by the Authority later in the year.

The Committee reiterated their desire for a rail station at Elland and stressed that all areas of West Yorkshire should be considered when the new prioritised list was developed.

Tram-Train Trials

It was reported that a 'tram-train' was to be trialled for the first time in the UK on the Penistone Line. The trial would commence in 2010 over a two year

period and would look at the environmental benefits, costs, technical suitability and passenger perception.

Summer Seasonal Bus Services

The Committee noted the summary of additional or enhanced bus services which were set out in paragraph 2.72 of the submitted report. The services would operate during the summer giving access to rural areas of West Yorkshire and additional travel opportunities to those living in the countryside.

It was reported that the bus service to Eaves had been suspended due to safety issues in relation to the turning manoeuvres of the buses. Members were advised that investigations were to be carried out involving representatives from the bus operators, highways department and Metro.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

16. **CONSULTATION ITEMS -**
- (a) Metro Messenger Service Development**
 - (b) Bus Service Operators Grant**
 - (c) New Concessionary Entitlement**

Metro Messenger Service Development

The Committee were given a short presentation on the Metro Messenger service and members' views were sought on the current service and how it could be further developed.

It was noted that Metro were aiming to make the information more relevant to the recipient and members commended Metro on the information provided both through Metro Messenger and on their website during the recent floods.

Bus Service Operators Grant

It was reported that The Department for Transport (DfT) were currently consulting on options for change to the current arrangements for bus subsidies, in particular the Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG). Members were given a short presentation and it was suggested that a summary be sent to all PCC members for further consideration.

The Committee identified that other areas of industry eg construction and farming, were able to run their vehicles with low tax 'red' diesel and this could extend to bus services. It was noted that new vehicles tended to use more fuel and that encouraging their use may increase fuel consumption. Members were also concerned that if the grant were to be based on passenger usage the rural areas would suffer.

New Concessionary Entitlement

Members were aware of the new rules for concessionary travel entitlement which had become effective on 1 April 2008. They were given a presentation detailing what Metro had done to date to communicate information and were asked for any ideas or suggestions on how further marketing and communication should be carried out.

Comment was made that the marketing campaign had been excellent and members made the following suggestions:

- In order to capture a wider audience, leaflets could be included in correspondence sent by the Pensions Department or carer's service.
- Opportunities for information to be included when promoting the summer bus services.
- Use displays in bus stations to inform people

Future Consultation Item

It was noted that at a recent meeting with PCC members to discuss the Transport Governance Review, the issue of cross boundary services within an integrated transport authority area was raised. This would be discussed as a consultation item at a future PCC meeting.

Members were thanked for their suggestions to all the consultation items and asked to forward any further ideas or comments on the questionnaire provided at the meeting.

RESOLVED - That PCC members' comments and views be noted.