

WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

**AT A MEETING OF THE RAIL WORKING GROUP
HELD AT WELLINGTON HOUSE ON
MONDAY 19 JANUARY 2009**

PRESENT: Councillor A Carter (Chair)
Councillors C Campbell, K Rhodes and D Robinson

In attendance: S Butcher, Northern (to minute 20)
D Haley, Northern (to minute 20)

17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no personal or prejudicial interests declared by members at the meeting.

18. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2008 be approved.

19. NORTHERN FRANCHISE UPDATE

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the operating performance of local rail services provided by Northern Rail within the West and North Yorkshire Performance Monitoring Unit (PMU).

Members were also given a presentation by Steve Butcher, Area Director East, Northern Rail who had been invited to attend the meeting. The presentation covered Leeds Station ticket barriers, revenue protection and Northern's performance.

It was reported that up to 64,000 people were using the ticket barriers each day at Leeds Station and Northern recognised that there had been issues with staffing on the barriers and efforts were being made to address these. It was noted that a solution for the handling of non-magnetic tickets at the barriers would be in place in the near future and members were advised of the proposals for ticket barriers to be fitted at Bradford Interchange in the near future.

The Working Group were briefed on Northern's initiatives for revenue collection and protection. Northern acknowledged that there were occasions when passengers were unable to buy tickets before arriving at their

destinations and it was therefore proposed to increase the number of ticket vending machines at local stations. Comment was made that conductors would often sell tickets on trains but not always check them and members were advised that this would be reinforced with conductors and there would also be an increased presence by mobile teams both on-train and at stations.

It was reported that Northern's performance had been measured at 90% for a number of previous periods but this had declined in periods 8 and 9 (12 October – 6 December 2008). Their Moving Annual Average stood at 89.29% which was just below their own target of 89.66%. The information on the long term performance trend for the West and North Yorkshire PMU was attached at Appendix 1 to the submitted report. Main reasons for the decline in performance were due to the autumn leaf fall and cable theft, which as reported to previous meetings of the Group, was a major challenge to the rail industry. It was noted that cable theft continued to have a major impact on performance. The Working Group were concerned that sentences should fully reflect the impact on passengers and awareness of the seriousness of the issue should be raised. The Authority had previously sent a letter to West Yorkshire Magistrates and it was agreed that a further letter would be sent to highlight the severity of the problem.

It was reported that strengthening provision continued to improve gradually and this was monitored on a daily basis. Members were advised that Metro were working closely with Northern and the Department for Transport regarding additional rolling stock and a progress report would be prepared for a future meeting.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the representatives from Northern be thanked for their presentation.
- (b) That the report be noted.
- (c) That a letter be sent to West Yorkshire Magistrates regarding cable thefts.

20. RAIL STATION CAR PARKING STRATEGY

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on an outline proposal for Metro's future car parking strategy at rail stations.

It was noted that a strategy was being developed that sought to reflect the issues previously discussed by the Working Group and members were given a presentation on the objectives and outline business case for a car parking management strategy.

Members discussed the outline strategy and business case and the issues which were highlighted in the submitted report. It was noted that the schemes proposed at Keighley Rail Station (in partnership with Keighley College and Bradford Council) and at Castleford Interchange, were both dependent upon a revised car parking strategy. It was reported that Leeds City Council had completed a Section 106 agreement with a developer at Guiseley to provide an additional car park close to the station and it was proposed that a charge be made for its use. It was therefore suggested that further work be undertaken to develop a line of route charging strategy, commencing with the Airedale line. Members were of the view that the new strategy created an opportunity to pro-actively address current issues with car parking at stations. It was stressed that opportunities for additional car parking spaces, remote parking areas, better integration with bus services and parking in residential areas should all be considered as part of the overall strategy. A report incorporating the comments of the Working Group would be prepared for the Authority seeking approval for the introduction of a revised strategy.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That a detailed report be prepared for a future meeting of the Authority.

21. STRATEGIC UPDATE

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive which provided an update on a number of strategic issues including proposed additional services to London, the Yorkshire and Humber Route Utilisation Strategy and the Department for Transport's High Level Output Statement.

East Coast Main Line Service Proposals

It was reported that the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) had appointed Network Rail to carry out further timetable assessment work regarding the proposals for new or modified services between the region and London. It was noted that one version of the NXEC proposals had identified a possible conflict with Metro's proposals for the new stations at Apperley Bridge and Kirkstall Forge. Metro would work closely with the industry to ensure that any conflicts with current or proposed services were satisfactorily resolved.

The Yorkshire and Humber Rail Utilisation Study (RUS)

Members noted the response to the draft RUS which Metro had submitted on behalf of the City Region and a copy was attached at Appendix A to the report. It was reported that stakeholder meetings were taking place on the development of the final RUS document which Network Rail was planning to publish within the next few months.

High Level Output Statement (HLOS)

The Working Group was advised that the DfT was working closely with Northern and TransPennine Express on the development of a rolling stock strategy. It was understood that the DfT had provisionally allocated 182 additional vehicles to the Northern franchise and was also discussing an appropriate strategy with TransPennine Express. Metro was working with the DfT and other Northern PTEs and was seeking to help shape the delivery and implementation of the additional carriages.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

22. RAIL STATION VISITS

It was reported that following the suggestion made at the last meeting of the Group arrangements had been made for members to visit several rail stations in the county. It was proposed to do the visits on two half days, 9 and 10 February 2009 and members considered the draft itinerary which was circulated at the meeting.

RESOLVED - That the arrangements for the rail station be circulated to members.