

AGENDA ITEM No: 2

WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

AT A MEETING OF THE CALDERDALE PASSENGER CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE HELD IN THE TOWN HALL, HALIFAX ON TUESDAY 24 JANUARY 2006

PRESENT: Councillor G Wainwright (Chair)

WYPTA

K Hussain
S King
C Townley

PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES

James Calland
Vic Duke
Lesley Mackay
Howard Maude

Peter Melling
Peter Stocks
John Whiteley

CALDERDALE MBC

R Reynolds
K Watson

Also in attendance:

R Kendrick	-	Arriva
N Walsh	-	T J Walsh
I Taylor	-	T&GWU
N Winter	-	First
P Stubbs	-	Calderdale MBC
J Trotter	-	Brighouse Echo
D Holt	-	Halifax Courier

7. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from public representative John Sykes.

8. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2005 be approved.

9. MEMBER FEEDBACK REPORT

The Committee considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive advising them of the feedback received at the meeting of the Committee held on 11 October 2005.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

10. INFORMATION REPORT

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

Service Changes

Members noted the details of the bus service changes that would be introduced on 30 January 2006 and a copy of the Changing Times leaflet was available at the meeting.

It was reported that there had been several complaints regarding the withdrawal of Service M62 which operated between Halifax and Leeds. Mr Winter of First Calderline advised the Committee that the decision had been made for commercial reasons. The service had not covered its operating costs for a number of years and despite an extensive campaign to promote the service and market research being carried out, it was not viable for it to continue.

Bus Companies – Changes of Ownership

It was reported that Stagecoach Group plc had acquired the Traction Group Ltd, which was the parent company of Yorkshire Traction and the Blazefield Group (which included Keighley & District Travel, Harrogate & District Travel and Yorkshire Coastliner) had been sold to Transdev.

Realtime – YourNextBus

It was noted that feedback from customers using the system had been positive and all PCC members had been invited to attend a demonstration of the Realtime system at Wellington House, Leeds on 2 February 2006.

Free Travel Concessions Update

Members were advised that with effect from April 2006, free travel would be provided for men and women over 60 and certain categories of disabled people. The concessions would apply between 0930 and 2300 hours but would apply to bus journeys only within the area of the authority. However it was noted that the PTA would be considering arrangements for rail and cross-boundary journeys as part of its budgeting process for 2006/7.

Rail Information at Stations

It was reported that Metro would be contributing to a scheme that would replace the information control systems for the existing long line public address announcements and passenger information screen displays at rail stations. Northern's programme for implementing the new system was due

for completion in Spring 2006. Members welcomed the initiative and hoped this would resolve longstanding problems with the system at Brighouse Station.

Shelter Refurbishment

Members were updated on the shelter refurbishment programme due for completion in March 2007 which would raise the overall standard of shelter provision and ensure that all shelters were DDA compliant.

Late Night Services

It was noted that currently regular late night bus services only operated between Leeds City Centre and Headingley and these were provided on a commercial basis. Members were advised that Metro had discussed the provision of late night services for other parts of West Yorkshire with operators but unfortunately they did not feel there was a business case to support their operation.

It was reported that Metro had sought funding for late night service provision through the Kickstart scheme but that this bid had been unsuccessful. It was suggested that places of entertainment be approached to see if they would be willing to assist in funding night services. Public representative, Lesley Mackay, expressed her concern about the problems in Halifax and Councillor Wainwright agreed to raise the matter with the Chairman of the Community Safety Partnership in Calderdale.

Condition of Railway Lines

The Committee were advised that Network Rail were continuing to clear litter and clean graffiti from railway lines but it was unlikely that their limited resources would be able to tackle the high levels which had been monitored by Metro. It was reported that Metro, Network Rail, the British Transport Police and local Council would work in partnership on a trial to identify the most effective way of combating the ongoing graffiti and litter issues. It was suggested that the offenders could be given community service orders to help clear up the sites although it was recognised that there would be safety implications regarding working on the railway.

Brighouse Bus Station

Members noted that discussions had been held with bus operators and Calderdale Council's Highways Department in order that a final layout and design could be prepared for consultation. The Committee would be kept informed of further developments.

Members expressed their concern regarding the condition of the current bus station and requested that repairs be made to the leaking roof as a matter of urgency and that the litter bins be emptied on a regular basis. It was also reported that bus drivers were leaving their engines running for long periods.

Metro did expect drivers to be reasonable and would remind operators of their responsibility in this regard.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

11. CONSULTATION ITEMS
(a) LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 2
(b) REAL TIME INFORMATION DISPLAYS

The Committee considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the 2nd West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan accessibility planning and locations for real time information displays.

Local Transport Plan 2 – Accessibility Planning

Members were given a short presentation on the Accessibility Strategy which would form part of the Local Transport Plan 2. Consideration was given to the accessibility planning for the Calderdale area and it was noted that an action plan was being developed through consultation with local stakeholders and service providers. The Accessibility Strategy highlighted a number of issues and actions as priorities for the coming year which included access to health services, employment and education. A questionnaire was circulated at the meeting and members' feedback and views were sought.

Concern was expressed regarding access to shops and services in several areas of Calderdale including Stainland, Barkisland, Copley, Todmorden and Savile Park and comment was made that there were accessibility issues in areas where amenities such as local post offices and banks had been closed. The Committee discussed the issues regarding developments where supermarkets were built on sites not covered by bus services and it was noted that Calderdale MBC consulted Metro when they received any applications for new developments with over 75 dwellings so that the developers could be approached by Metro regarding the provision of public transport services and facilities.

Real Time Information Displays

The Committee were advised that Metro were to install realtime information displays at 800 bus stops across West Yorkshire and members were shown an example of the larger type of display to be installed at the busiest bus stops. Members were asked to complete the questionnaire circulated at the meeting to provide Metro with any suggestions or comments regarding the locations for the displays.

Metro agreed to investigate whether the roll out of the scheme to bus stations included the installation of a display at Brighouse Bus Station and would report back.

RESOLVED – That PCC members' comments and views be sought.