

WEST YORKSHIRE INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

**AT A MEETING OF THE LEEDS PASSENGER CONSULTATIVE
COMMITTEE HELD AT WELLINGTON HOUSE, LEEDS
ON MONDAY 17 JANUARY 2011**

PRESENT: Councillor M Lyons (Chair)

WYITA

R Downes
W Hyde
J Lewis
J Matthews
E Taylor

PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES

David Brady	Catherine Keighley
Paul Chadwick	Neil Ricketts
Brian Cooper	Eric Smith
Edward Gale	Ann Stocks
John Gittos	Charles Stones
Rosemary Keenoy	Bill Tymms
	Peter Wood

Also in attendance:-

R Harris	-	First Leeds
D Brookes	-	Centrebus
M Muirhead-Reeves	-	Centrebus
C Newbury	-	Arriva Yorkshire
D Haley	-	Northern
A Hall	-	Leeds City Council Highways

7. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M Coulson and public representatives, Ray Finlayson, David Hope, Hazel Lee and Alan Oldroyd.

8. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR

RESOLVED - That Mr D Brady be elected as Deputy Chair of the Committee.

9. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meetings held on 4 October 2010 and 25 November 2010 be noted.

10. MEMBER FEEDBACK

The Committee considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive advising members of the feedback received at the meeting held on 4 October 2010 and to report the action taken.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

11. INFORMATION REPORT

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

Comprehensive Spending Review

It was reported that there would be significant reductions in capital and revenue funding for transport in West Yorkshire following the Comprehensive Spending Review and funding announcements for local government. Central government funding for local government was expected to reduce by around 25% over the next 3 years although the impact on different authorities varied considerably.

Metro Budget

The Committee was advised that just less than 50% of Metro's budget came through the District Councils. Discussions on the levy for 2011/12 had taken account of affordability in view of the funding reductions and Metro was making a wide range of efficiency savings, including reducing staff numbers. Members discussed the actions being taken and were given the opportunity to make suggestions where further efficiency savings could be made.

Major Schemes Update

It was reported that following the publication of the Comprehensive Spending Review, the Secretary of State for Transport had made an announcement regarding a new process for approving major transport schemes.

The Committee noted the current position on Metro's major schemes which included Leeds Southern Station Entrance, New Generation Transport, Leeds Rail Growth Package and Castleford Interchange which were outlined in the submitted report. Members were advised that Leeds City Council had submitted an Expression of Interest for the Leeds Inner Ring Road maintenance scheme and it was hoped it would be put in the 'Development Pool' as part of the DfT's new review process.

Local Sustainable Transport Fund

It was reported that the Government were to establish a Local Sustainable Transport Fund and local transport authorities outside London would be able

to bid for a mix of capital and revenue funds. Full guidance was expected in the near future and Metro and the District Councils were considering the preparation of a bid.

Disruptions Due to Bad Weather

The Committee discussed the severe disruptions to bus and rail services during the recent bad weather. Members thanked the operators and Metro for the efforts made to retain as many services as possible and keep passengers informed during that time.

Metro and operators had reviewed processes following the bad weather early in 2010 and systems had been put in place for operators to send regular updates to Metro which could then be used by MetroLine, travel centres and bus stations. Metro's PR team ensured that disruption information was on the website within minutes and also used Facebook, Twitter and other mechanisms to disseminate information. It was recognised that any bus real time system would not be able to generate totally accurate predictions during severe disruption and it was hoped to be able to use screens in bus stations and shelters and SMS messages to provide more up to date information. It was noted that Metro continued to explore ways of improving information services and it was proposed to establish emergency teams which would supplement bus station staff to assist passengers when there was severe disruption in future.

Hybrid Buses

The Committee was advised that First Group had been successful in a bid for funding and were buying 22 new hybrid buses which would operate in the Leeds area. The engines would be powered by both diesel and electricity and should produce 20 – 30% fuel efficiency savings. The first six vehicles would enter service in March 2011.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

12. CONSULTATION ITEM – DEVELOPMENT OF THE WEST YORKSHIRE LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 3 (WYLTP3)

The Committee was updated on the ongoing development work for the preparation of the West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP3) 2011 – 2026 and the development of a 3 year Implementation Plan for 2011 – 2014.

Members were thanked for their input following the special joint meeting of all the PCCs in November 2010 and the key issues raised were outlined in the submitted report. The public consultation on the draft strategy had ended on 7 January 2011 and members received a presentation which provided them with a summary of the consultation feedback received to date.

It was reported that work with District partners and stakeholders was being undertaken to develop the first three year Implementation Plan for 2011-2014.

The draft Implementation Plan reflected the reduced amount of LTP3 funding with future spending focussed on maintaining existing assets and reducing congestion to support jobs growth and carbon reduction in accordance with the themes in the draft strategy.

Members were advised that consultation on the draft Implementation Plan was scheduled from 24 January – 11 February 2011. The Implementation Plan would be published with the full West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan 2011-2026 by 1 April 2011.

Members were thanked for their participation and were asked to forward any further ideas or comments to Metro on the questionnaire provided at the meeting or by email to erica.ward@wypte.gov.uk.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the approach set out in the submitted report for developing WYLTP3 be noted.
- (b) That members' views be noted.