

AGENDA ITEM No: 5

WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

AT A MEETING OF THE LEEDS PASSENGER CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE HELD AT WELLINGTON HOUSE, LEEDS ON MONDAY 3 JULY 2006

PRESENT: Councillor D Schofield (Chair)

WYPTA

D Blackburn
D Congreve
R Downes
B Hyde
J Jarosz
C Townsley

PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES

Janice Dinsdale	C Leslie (TSSA)
Vera Foster	Lucie Middlemiss
John Gallagher	Frank Priestley
Philip Good	Judith Rhodes
Joyce Hutt	Eric Smith
Barbara Kay	Ann Stocks
Janet Latham	Geoff Welburn

Also in attendance:-

S Graham	-	First Leeds
S Bear	-	Arriva Yorkshire
D Mallender	-	First TransPennine Express

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from public representatives Jennifer Boden, David Bowcock, Rosemary Keenoy and Anne Rayner.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 April 2006 be approved.

3. 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 3 April 2006.

Members were reminded that individual detailed matters could be raised with Metro officers at the close of the meeting.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

4. INFORMATION REPORT

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

PTA Membership 2006/7

It was reported that at its Annual Meeting held on 23 June 2006, the PTA had elected Councillor Stanley King as Chairman and Councillor Ryk Downes as Vice Chairman. The District Council Spokesperson for the Leeds area would be Councillor David Schofield.

A PTA Year Book incorporating details of its members and useful contact numbers would be distributed to all PCC members in the near future.

Service Changes

It was reported that the next major timetable change would occur on 22 July 2006 and copies of Metro's Changing Times leaflet were available at the meeting.

It was reported that North Yorkshire County Council had made a number of changes to bus services in their area for budgetary reasons. This included the withdrawal of Service X84 (which crossed the boundary into West Yorkshire) because it did not meet North Yorkshire's criteria for passenger usage.

Day Tripper Services

Members were advised of the seasonal day tripper services which would be subsidised by Metro and provided from 24 July to 2 September 2006. The services would provide the opportunity for days out at popular West Yorkshire tourist attractions including Temple Newsam, Lotherton Hall and Fairburn Ings.

Rail Station Access

Members welcomed the launch of the Department for Transport's 'Railways for All' initiative which was aimed at improving the accessibility of rail stations over a period of 10 years. The £370 million funding provision was split into two parts, £35 million per year for improving access at the busiest stations and £7 million per year, the majority of which would be available for 'Small Schemes' funding. It was noted that two applications for 'Small Schemes' funding had been submitted which included a project for access improvements at Garforth rail station and a decision on the bid was awaited.

Yellow Bus

It was reported that the Yellow Bus initiative had received a 'Working Together' award at the national Public Servants of the Year Awards. Members noted the progress with the second phase of the project and that the Department for Transport (DfT) had agreed funding to cover Phase 3.

Leeds FreeCityBus Update

Members were advised that the Leeds FreeCityBus was carrying an average of 29,000 passengers per week and Metro had agreed, in partnership with Leeds City Council, to continue the service and seek contributions from other agencies.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

5. CONSULTATION ITEMS -

- (a) Bus Timetable Leaflets**
- (b) Departure Stand Information at Bus Stations**
- (c) Visual Environment at Rail Stations**

Members views were sought on the format of Metro produced bus timetables, the possible replacement of departure stand information at bus stations and improving the visual environment at rail stations. A questionnaire was circulated at the meeting and members were asked to forward their suggestions to Metro.

Bus Timetable Leaflets

Members were given a presentation on Metro's production of timetable leaflets. It was noted that Metro's Information Strategy stated that there should be a printed timetable leaflet for all bus services although some operators, such as Arriva and Keighley & District Travel, produced their own. However Metro produced leaflets for other services to ensure that comprehensive information was available to customers for all services.

It was reported that Metro currently produced 3 million printed timetables a year and there had been a further 3 million timetables downloaded from the Internet. The format of the timetable leaflets was being reviewed and members' views were sought on their legibility, content, format and cost implications.

Members considered that the timetables were easy to read and the inclusion of maps provided in all timetables would be beneficial. Comment was made that the Internet versions were not always as easy to read and could be made more user friendly.

Departure Stand Information at Bus Stations

It was reported that Metro was considering options for the provision of departure stand information at bus stations. Members were advised that currently the information was in the form of illuminated signs and fixed signage with service numbers above the departure stands although the use of electronic signs was being considered.

Members were shown examples of the types of displays that could be provided and they welcomed the proposal to install them at departure stands. It was intended that the new displays would have the capacity to provide realtime information in the future although further work was needed in

developing suitable software before this could be achieved. Members were supportive of this development.

Visual Environment at Rail Stations

Members were advised of a recent national report published by the National Audit Office which had highlighted the poor standard of facilities and visual appearance of rail stations across the country.

It was reported that Metro had a programme of improvements set out in the Local Transport Plan 2 and RailPlan 6 documents but members' views were sought for any West Yorkshire stations that would benefit from a more immediate 'face lift' to address issues of poor or run-down appearance.

It was noted that minor improvements could include the pruning of vegetation, new signage, lighting and repainting and members were asked to make suggestions to Metro of any West Yorkshire stations which could benefit from such work.

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