

WEST YORKSHIRE INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

**AT A MEETING OF THE KIRKLEES PASSENGER CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE TOWN HALL, DEWSBURY
ON WEDNESDAY 13 JANUARY 2010**

PRESENT: Councillor T Brice (Chair)

WYITA

E Firth
A Pinnock

PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES

Richard Fieldhouse
Shaun Jordan

Also in attendance:

S Ottley	-	Arriva Yorkshire
D Haley	-	Northern
D Mallender	-	TransPennine Express

12. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G Lowe, N Patrick, E Smaje, M Sokhal and L Wilkinson and public representatives John Appleyard, Don Burslam, David Hargreaves, William Kirby, Keith Parry and Chris Taylor and operator representatives Colin Newbury (Arriva) and Taj Singh (Huddersfield Bus Co).

The Chair thanked everyone for their efforts in attending the meeting during the adverse weather.

13. MINUTES

Further to minute 10, Additional Train Carriages, it was reported that a decision was still awaited from the Department for Transport regarding the rolling stock strategy and Metro was continuing to work closely with Northern and other PTEs to press the DfT for additional units. Members discussed the need for more local and trans-Pennine rail services and considered that the Penistone Line warranted an improved service. Whilst additional carriages would help alleviate some capacity issues, it was acknowledged that the inadequacy of some rail infrastructure in the region was also a limiting factor in providing the necessary additional services.

It was reported that the first phase of cascading trains from elsewhere in the UK to Northern was expected to be delivered between December 2010 and 2014. Metro was pushing for new/newer rolling stock to be introduced in both phase 1 and phase 2 and, where this was not possible, for the units to be brought up to modern standards through refurbishment.

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 30 September 2009 be approved.

14. MEMBER FEEDBACK

The Committee considered a report advising members of the feedback received at the meeting of the Committee held on 30 September 2009 and to report the action taken.

With regard to the 2009 Market Research results, concern was expressed regarding the suggestion to split urban and rural responses in view of the fact that it was difficult to define such areas in West Yorkshire. Members were advised that a map agreed with the Countryside Agency and now adopted by Yorkshire Forward would be used should the information be split in the future.

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 Kirklees District.

Service Changes

The Committee was updated on the forthcoming service changes scheduled for 22/23/24 January 2010. A copy of the Changing Times leaflet giving full details of the changes was circulated to members.

Boxing Day 2009 Services

It was noted that a network of bus services had operated on Boxing Day linking several communities with Leeds and Huddersfield. Although final patronage figures were awaited, observation on the day suggested that the services had been well used.

Quality Contracts

The Committee was advised of the unanimous decision by the Integrated Transport Authority to pursue the development of a Quality Bus Contract Scheme. The Quality Contract process would highlight areas of concern and members considered that in the first instance, operators should be encouraged to enter into voluntary agreements in an attempt to find solutions. PCC members would be consulted on the development of the proposal in the future. Operators, District Councils and other key stakeholders' consultations were also planned. An initial PCC member consultation was scheduled for 4 February 2010.

Real Time at Bus Stations

Members welcomed the installation of real time at the 8 main bus stations in West Yorkshire. However concern was expressed that not all operators were using the system despite having the tracking equipment fitted to their vehicles. Problems were also reported of scheduled times being displayed on some screens rather than real time, in particular at Huddersfield Bus Station, and this would be investigated.

Rural Bus Services

Members were updated on the current position regard the provision of enhanced rural services which were operating on an experimental use it or lose it basis. The provision of a market day service from Denby Dale to Barnsley was welcomed. It was also noted that Holme Valley service 335 had been extended to provide a link from Holmfirth to the Holme Valley Memorial Hospital. A new bus service 388 had also been introduced in the Colne Valley to provide a link from Meltham to Milnsbridge and Huddersfield Royal Infirmary.

Dewsbury FreeTownBus

It was reported that the Dewsbury FreeTownBus had commenced service on 12 December 2009 and had carried 2,343 passengers in its first week of operation. However patronage had been low during the recent poor weather. Monitoring would continue and updates provided to future meetings of the Committee.

Low Moor

It was noted that preliminary design work would commence in January 2010 and, subject to further approvals and design work, it was envisaged that the station would be opened in 2012.

Dewsbury and Huddersfield Rail Stations

It was anticipated that work would commence in February 2010 on the passenger improvements proposed at Dewsbury and Huddersfield Rail Stations. It was expected that the programme, which included improvements to the entrances and exits, waiting facilities and ticket offices, would be completed before the end of the year.

High Speed Rail

It had been announced that the High Speed Rail Company, HS2, had been asked to focus its attention on the London to West Midlands corridor, including access to Heathrow Airport. HS2 were to report to Lord Adonis, the Secretary of State for Transport and it was expected that the Government would respond to the report in due course. Members expressed their disappointment that the East Coast route was not being pursued at this time and noted that Metro

continued to press for the development of a comprehensive high speed network to both the West and East Coast routes.

Rural Accessibility Partnership

Members were advised that Metro had been appointed by Yorkshire Forward to manage a funding package aimed at improving access to employment and training for people living in rural areas in West Yorkshire. Grants would be available to support small projects to assist residents in rural areas to get to work or college and stakeholder meetings had been held in each district to promote the scheme.

Here to Get Youth There – Metro’s Conference for Young People

It was reported that as part of Metro’s Young People’s Strategy a ‘Here to Get Youth There’ conference had been held in October 2009. Feedback and evaluation forms from the conference had been collated and members noted the key issues arising which were detailed in the submitted report.

Members noted that one of the key issues arising from the conference was interaction between young people and bus drivers. Arriva advised that they arranged for several schools to visit their depots and forums were held with the pupils and the drivers. Metro also pursued this interaction through the YellowBus scheme for schools transport and the SAFEMark scheme. Whilst these means helped alleviate issues on school bus services, it was more difficult to address such on local services.

England 2018 World Cup Bid

It was reported that Leeds had been selected as a host city in England’s bid to hold the World Cup in 2018. Should the bid be successful, extensive transport arrangements would be essential for the event.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

16. CONSULTATION ITEMS -

- (a) West Yorkshire’s 3rd Local Transport Plan 2011-26
(‘MyJourney’ West Yorkshire)**
- (b) Marketing Plan**
- (c) Priorities for SmartCard Roll Out**
- (d) Operators’ Comments**

West Yorkshire’s 3rd Local Transport Plan 2011-2026

It was reported that the West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan 3 (WYLTP3) 2011-2026 would be prepared in partnership with the District Councils and it was intended that a draft strategy would be in place by the end of Summer 2010. Initial awareness raising and engagement was currently taking place with partners and key stakeholders through newsletters, workshops and

meetings and a survey was to be launched to capture initial feedback. Comment was made that it was important for the LTP3 to fit within each district's Local Development Frameworks and the City Region Transport Strategy.

Further consultation would take place with the Passenger Consultative Committees and members were asked for their suggestions on how best to capture the views of the public.

Priorities for SmartCard Roll Out

It was reported that the Department for Transport (DfT) had announced a funding package of £20m to support the development of smart and integrated ticketing to the 9 largest urban areas outside London which included the 6 PTEs, Nottingham, Leicester and Bristol. The funding would go towards implementing ITSO smart ticketing schemes and with £2.2m being allocated to each urban area. Half of the funding would need to be spent by the end of March 2010 and it was intended that Metro would work with South Yorkshire PTE to jointly procure the necessary infrastructure for implementing ITSO smartcard schemes.

The DfT had also announced an 8% increase to the BSOG rate for bus operators that introduced smartcard infrastructure on their buses. This would equate to approximately £800 per vehicle per year.

It was noted that there were also plans to enable the ticket barriers at Leeds and Bradford Interchange rail stations to accept ITSO smartcards and work was ongoing to progress this.

Members were asked to consider where they would expect to be able to purchase smartcards and associated travel products and the following comments were made:

- Availability should be widespread to all areas of West Yorkshire and include supermarkets and newsagents
- The Oyster system in London was considered a success and West Yorkshire should follow their example
- The price was considered important – there should be incentives to purchase the cards
- The system should be easy to use
- Ability to top up the cards via the web, over the telephone and by direct debit

Marketing Plan

The Committee received a presentation on the marketing campaigns which had been carried out during 2009 which included:

- Go Greener Campaign
- Settle-Carlisle Campaign

- MetroMessenger
- Festive Services

It was proposed to include YourNextBus and MetroCard campaigns, the Travel for Work Project and the further promotion of MetroMessenger in the Marketing Plan for 2010/11. Members were asked to forward ideas for any other key themes that could be included in the Plan.

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 or by email to erica.ward@wypte.gov.uk.

Operators' Comments

Operators were invited to report on issues and developments for PCC members' consideration.

Arriva

Mr Ottley advised the Committee of the following:

- during the bad weather Arriva had continued to run services on the main roads with the safety of all routes being continually assessed.
- An eco-management system had been installed on vehicles in Dewsbury and drivers were being trained to drive in a more environmentally friendly way.

TransPennine Express

Mr Mallender advised the Committee of the following:

- services had performed reasonably well during the bad weather but there had been problems with frozen points in the North East and North Yorkshire.
- Fares had not been increased in January 2010.
- Work on the Huddersfield Station lift was progressing and the projected dated for completion was June 2010.

Northern

Mr Haley advised the Committee of the following:

- during the bad weather 84-85% of trains had operated on time.
- Patronage on the recently introduced Manchester via Dewsbury service was higher than expected.
- Batley Grammar School had expressed an interest in opening 3 of the vacant units at Batley Station.
- MetroCard prices had been frozen

It was reported that Heidi Mottram, Northern's Managing Director, was leaving the company in the near future. A letter would be sent to Ms Mottram extending the Committee's best wishes and it was suggested that the new Managing Director be invited to attend a future meeting of the PCC when appointed.

Other Issues

Comment was made that Metro's website had been excellent during the recent bad weather, providing regular updates regarding service disruptions. Members also commended the bus and train drivers for their efforts in keeping the services running.

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