

## **AGENDA ITEM NO: 7**

### **WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY**

#### **AT A MEETING OF THE RAIL WORKING GROUP HELD AT NORTHERN RAIL, YORK ON TUESDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2006**

**PRESENT:** Councillor C Townley (Chair)  
Councillors K Iqbal, G Phelps and J Prestage

#### **21. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J S King and M Lyons.

#### **22. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Chair announced that the next meeting of the Rail Working Group would be held on Tuesday 25 April 2006 at Wellington House, Leeds.

#### **23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

#### **24. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2005 be approved.

#### **25. NORTHERN FRANCHISE UPDATE**

The Working Group considered a report on the operating performance of local rail services within West Yorkshire provided by Northern Rail.

It was reported that performance regarding cancellations and punctuality had improved slightly compared to the previous year. With regard to strengthenings, it was noted that there had been an improvement in the delivery of strengthened trains compared to the same period the previous year although period 10 had been adversely affected by unit availability problems. Members noted the correspondence received from Network Rail advising Metro of the steps that were being taken to reduce the current level of cancellations and delays to services in West Yorkshire which were attributable to them.

Members were advised that the Service Quality audit results had shown a drop in performance relating to the external and internal cleanliness of trains. A meeting to investigate ways in which to improve the service had been arranged with Northern.

It was noted that members would be given a tour of Northern's Control Centre at the conclusion of the meeting.

**RESOLVED** - That the report be noted.

## **26. ROLLING STOCK UPDATE**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive updating them on rolling stock issues.

Members were advised that Yorkshire Forward had announced their financial contribution in partnership with Metro and Northern towards the acquisition of additional vehicles to provide additional capacity on routes such as the Caldervale and Harrogate lines. Cascades would provide additional capacity for other routes in West Yorkshire and higher quality vehicles would be used on the Leeds-Sheffield semi-fast service.

It was reported that Northern were developing a detailed plan and timetable for implementation of the units which should be fully deployed by December 2006.

It was noted that a meeting would be arranged with the DfT regarding the 8 Class 333 trailer cars and a progress report would be prepared for the next meeting of the Working Group.

**RESOLVED** - That the report be noted.

## **27. RAILPLAN 6**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the final version of RailPlan 6.

It was reported that RailPlan 6 had been updated to reflect the changes agreed at the December meeting and, subject to minor editing, it was proposed that the document be submitted for approval by the Authority at a meeting to be held on 17 March 2006.

**RESOLVED** – That RailPlan 6 be submitted to the Authority for approval.

## **28. EAST COAST MAIN LINE ACCESS ISSUES**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive updating members on competing proposals for additional services on the East Coast Main Line (ECML).

Members had received a copy of the Office of Rail Regulation's (ORR) proposed decision on applications for the track access rights to operate additional services. They expressed their disappointment at the ORR's decision to reject both the Grand Central and GNER applications as neither company would now be able to operate additional services in West Yorkshire.

It was noted that the ORR was seeking views on the proposed decision and a response had been sent which emphasised that the decision ignored the needs of West Yorkshire and did not support the strong economic growth forecast for the region. The ORR would consider the responses and a final decision would be published.

**RESOLVED** - That the report and responses to the consultation be noted.

## **29. REVENUE PROTECTION**

Members were given a presentation on revenue protection by Malcolm Brown, Northern's Area Director East and were given the opportunity to raise questions.