

WEST YORKSHIRE INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

CALDERDALE PASSENGER CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

DATE: 14 JULY 2009

AGENDA ITEM NO: **4.**

SUBJECT: INFORMATION REPORT

Report of the Passenger Transport Executive

1. MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION

1.1. Matters of information relating to the Calderdale district.

2. INFORMATION

Bus Service Changes 18/19/20 July 2009

- 2.1. The next major bus timetable change of the year occurs on the weekend of the 18/19/20 July 2009. Details of the changes will be set out in a copy of Metro's Changing Times leaflet which will be available at the meeting.
- 2.2. Members of the PCC will note that the evening operation of service 537/538 Huddersfield – Stainland – Halifax was identified by First for withdrawal along with a number of services throughout West Yorkshire. Metro will fund the continued operation of this service until January 2010 and will review the usage of the service within a wider review of the bus services it funds in this area of Calderdale.

Bank Holiday Services 2009

- 2.3. Metro and bus operators have agreed a standardised pattern of services for the Bank Holidays throughout spring and summer 2009. Sunday service will operate on most routes on August Bank Holiday. Further details will be published by Metro in a seasonal leaflet and on the web site.

Day Trippers

- 2.4. As in previous years Metro is arranging some additional bus services during the school summer holidays to enable families and other passengers make journeys to local tourist attractions which they cannot make using regular bus services. The services which will operate are:
- Service 950 – Leeds to Temple Newsam and Lotherton Hall operating from Tuesday to Saturday. The service will be provided by Godsons
 - Service 951 – Huddersfield – Holmfirth – Holme Moss – Torside – Glossop (for the Peak District) operating Saturdays and August Bank

Holiday. The service will be provided by Huddersfield Bus Company. The timetable will co-ordinate with service 61 at Glossop enabling passengers to travel onward to New Mills and Buxton

2.5. Through ticketing between the services will be available. MetroCard holders will be able to use their card to travel through to Glossop on this service.

- Service 956 – Huddersfield to National Coal Mining Museum, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Cawthorne and Cannon Hall and Farm operating on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. The service will be provided by Huddersfield Bus Company

2.6. A leaflet detailing these services and other local holiday travel opportunities will be available at the meeting.

Review Of Tendered Bus Services – Rural South Calderdale

2.7. First have advised Metro that a number of their commercial bus services in the rural parts of Calderdale south of the Calder Valley are no longer commercially viable.

2.8. Metro has agreed to fund the continuation of these services on a temporary basis until January 2010 pending a comprehensive review of tendered and commercial bus services in the area. Members of the Committee will be advised of the progress of the review.

Bus Service 530

2.9. Service 530 operates hourly in West Halifax between Halifax Bus Station, Calderdale College, Bell Hall and Calderdale Royal Infirmary. The service was introduced in April 2008 on a trial “use it or lose it” basis funded by the budget for Supplementary Tendered Bus Services. Unfortunately usage of the service has not met the targets set for its continued operation and the service must, therefore, be withdrawn after 17 July 2009. Surveys carried out in early May indicated that only 13 people per day make journeys on Service 530 that could not be made using alternative bus services; an average of 1.5 passengers per trip.

Kickstart – Brighouse

2.10. The Department for Transport have invited bids under its Kickstart programme for innovative new bus services. Metro, Calderdale Community Transport and Calderdale Council are submitting a bid for a “Metro Local” community minibus service in Brighouse and Rastrick. The service will be similar to those recently introduced in Kirklees and will provide links to local services which cannot be met by the regular bus service. In developing the bid, Metro is working closely with the Primary Care Trust and the local community group in Rastrick.

AccessBus Update

- 2.11. Metro is working to place the AccessBus service on a strong footing for the future. A replacement vehicle programme is almost complete and by September 2009 all of the vehicles will be less than five years old.
- 2.12. Nineteen brand new buses have entered service this year representing an investment in the service of £1.7 million. A new booking system is also being introduced which is hoped to improve the flexibility and efficiency of the service and will enhance customer service for those telephoning Metro to make a booking.
- 2.13. Following a recent change in the regulations governing bus services, AccessBus will operate as a registered local bus service from the end of September. All existing passenger bookings will continue and though fares will be introduced for travel on the service, existing passengers qualify for concessionary fares and will continue to travel free of charge.

Mybus Primary schools

- 2.14. Mybus has proved very successful for the majority of schools where it has been introduced. It has been particularly pleasing to see the take up at primary schools where around two thirds of the users had previously been driven to school by car. However, a small number of the primary services are not performing as well we required in terms of CO₂ reduction, mode shift and cost of operation.
- 2.15. All services have been evaluated based on number of regular users; net subsidy per trip and alternative options if the service were to end. At schools where criteria were not met, additional marketing has taken place to try to generate additional passengers and a further evaluation undertaken.
- 2.16. As a result, the following services are due to end from July 2009. Metro has written to parents and children, schools and ward councillors to let them know well in advance so that alternative arrangements can be made for September.

Operator	Service	Schools
First	P32 (AM)	Eldwick Primary, Bingley
First	S25 (AM)	St Joseph's Primary, Otley
CT Wakefield	S19	Green Lane Primary, Ninelands Primary, Garforth
First	S9	St Anthony's Primary, Clayton C of E Primary, Clayton
First	P36 (AM)	St Peter and St Paul R C Primary, Yeadon
First	S12	Almondbury Junior School, Huddersfield
First	P37	St Margaret's Primary, West End Primary, Horsforth
First	S10	St Anthony's Primary, Clayton C of E Primary, Clayton,

2.17. Metro is currently undertaking a review of all Mybus services in advance of re-tendering the services in December this year, which will provide an opportunity to consider whether new services can be instigated at other schools where there is greater demand.

Metro Active

2.18. Metro Active is the brand name of the Kids for a Quid / Get Around for a Pound promotion of previous years. The campaign is focussed on young people getting out and about by public transport for leisure journeys over the Summer.

2.19. In addition, the promotion aims to promote the requirement for a half fare pass to young people in advance of the new academic year and to further promote the Generation M website (which has access to all school bus timetables and other useful ticketing and information).

2.20. The ticket will be a daily £1 off peak ticket for the whole of August, valid on production of a half fare pass. To ensure simplicity of the marketing message, this can be either a Young Person's or a Scholar's PhotoCard. Children under 11 without a half fare pass will be able to get a £1 ticket when travelling with a fare paying adult.

2.21. Metro active is being promoted widely, including:

- Posters in all secondary schools and a concertina leaflet (one per child) detailing places to go and where to find out more information
- Large posters at travel centres in bus stations and on some shelters
- Information in bus shelter roadside displays

2.22. Posters will also be sent to youth clubs and other such outlets.

2.23. Metro's PR department are working up a programme of photo calls as well as inserts / adverts in key newspapers towards the end of July.

2.24. The Generation M website will contain information about activities and a Facebook page has been established where young people can sign up as 'friends' of the campaign to get more information.

2.25. A monitoring and evaluation programme is being developed to ensure that the case can be made for similar promotions in future years.

English National Concessionary Travel Scheme – Replacement Passes

2.26. Since the introduction of ENCS Passes in April 2008 over 12,000 passes have been lost and replaced. Currently, the lost passes are replaced free of charge.

2.27. However, it costs over £2 to produce a pass (more if Metro's administration costs are included) and the increasing number of lost passes is causing concern. Currently, there is no incentive for people to look after their passes or try to find them if they are misplaced.

- 2.28. Most Travel Concessions Authorities (TCAs) make a charge for replacing lost passes. The charge is generally £5 although some charge £10.
- 2.29. In order to incentivise people to be more careful with their passes and recover the cost of producing passes Metro will be introducing a charge of £5 for replacing a lost pass.

Brighouse Bus Station

- 2.30. The new Brighouse Bus Station became fully operational on Sunday 10 May 2009 and was officially opened on Thursday 21 May 2009 and was dedicated to former Calderdale District Spokesman Councillor Geoffrey Wainwright, who died in February 2009.
- 2.31. At the opening Metro Chairman, Councillor Chris Greaves, paid tribute and said: "Geoff Wainwright championed public transport across West Yorkshire and as a member of West Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority had been instrumental in seeing through the plans for the bus station".
- 2.32. The facilities have been provided with comfortable, safe waiting areas, new seating and queuing arrangements, accessibility improvements, 24 hour CCTV surveillance and real time information displays. Pedestrian access between the bus station and town centre has also been improved by the provision of new footpaths and crossings.

Realtime at Bus Stations

- 2.33. Metro have now begun implementing Real Time at bus stations in West Yorkshire; starting with Keighley Bus station which went live on 27 May 2009.
- 2.34. The rollout of Real Time to bus stations will continue throughout the summer of 2009. The remaining bus stations to be upgraded are Huddersfield, Bradford, Dewsbury, Pontefract, Leeds, Halifax and Wakefield.

Traffic Light Priority (TLP)

- 2.35. TLP is one of the wide range of benefits obtainable from Metro's 'yournextbus' real time system. Additional LTP capital programme funding is being made available to the West Yorkshire partners for the development of a TLP programme over the next three years.
- 2.36. A 'Task and Finish' Group, comprising representatives from Metro, the five district councils and system supplier ACIS, has been set up to deliver this programme. Work is now underway to identify suitable locations for TLP application as well as scoping out required upgrades to existing equipment in order to maximise system performance.

Bus Service Operator Grant (BSOG)

- 2.37. The Secretary of State for Transport has announced that in April 2010 BSOG rates will be uprated for those operators who have achieved an improvement in fuel efficiency equivalent to 3% per annum for each of the two previous years. In addition, a payment of 6p per kilometre will be paid for all kilometres operated by a Low Carbon Emissions Bus from 1 April 2009.
- 2.38. Metro is in discussion with operators how to best capture these benefits and how to pass these potential savings either directly or indirectly to customers.

Quality Contract Draft Guidance

- 2.39. The Department for Transport is expected to publish draft guidance on how to implement a Quality Contract (franchising) shortly for consultation. The guidance is likely to make Quality Contracts easier to implement by making the decision to introduce franchising a local one rather than being determined by an outside body
- 2.40. Metro will respond to the guidance in coordination with other PTEs through *pteg*. It is expected that operators will also respond to the draft guidance through the Confederation of Passenger Transport (CPT).

New Train Service Proposals between Yorkshire and London

- 2.41. The additional services from London to Leeds proposed by National Express East Coast, together with the possible extension of some services through to Bradford and Harrogate, as part of the East Coast Main Line (ECML) franchise development, could be at risk because of the current economic downturn.
- 2.42. National Express has, for some time, been in discussion with the Department for Transport about the future of the ECML franchise in its current form because the projected passenger revenue income stream at the time of the letting of the franchise assumed a continuing growth of long distance travel that has not subsequently materialised.
- 2.43. In order to safeguard the potential improvements to London services, Metro has lobbied both the Department for Transport and the Office of Rail Regulation asking that any future changes to the franchise will make provision for service improvements between London and the region or will enable open access operator bids for such improvements to be reconsidered.
- 2.44. The current situation with National Express and the ECML franchise should not affect open access operator Grand Northern Railway's proposed Bradford to London service, which is due to start in December this year.

High Speed Rail

- 2.45. The development of the next High Speed Rail link has been the subject of much public and political debate. A Government led group, chaired

by Secretary of State for Transport Lord Adonis, is examining various options for expanding a series of national high speed routes within a number of corridors. The new lines would aim to release capacity on the existing network and provide an opportunity to strengthen local, regional and freight services.

- 2.46. The group is tasked with providing clarity on strategic goals and objectives in key corridors and it will develop policy options that relate to making best use of existing networks, expanding electrification, developing high speed rail routes and enabling better integration of aviation hubs. It has also set up a company called High Speed 2 (HS2) to provide technical and engineering advice on any route options.
- 2.47. Metro (working with the Leeds and Sheffield City Regions) has commissioned advisors to carry out work to identify the value of the economic benefits that could be delivered by a new High Speed route serving the region. The work includes an assessment of the potential benefits of local and national electrification options. The study findings should be available in July and will be presented to Government Ministers and HS2.

Zone 6 and 7 Tickets

- 2.48. On 17 May 2009 Metro and Northern Rail launched Zone 6 and Zone 7 rail tickets. The new tickets allow rail travellers in either Harrogate or Skipton who make regular rail journeys to save money with onward train travel within West Yorkshire.
- 2.49. It is available in weekly, monthly, quarterly or annual options from staffed rail stations.
- 2.50. The tickets are valid on all direct train services between Harrogate (not via York) or Skipton to West Yorkshire and unlimited train travel within West Yorkshire. They are not valid on any special train services which operate, such as Charter services.
- 2.51. Unlike MetroCard, Zone 6 and Zone 7 tickets are not valid on any bus services in either North Yorkshire or West Yorkshire.
- 2.52. Work is underway to develop proposals for expanding the new zonal tickets to other destination within the Leeds City Region.

Halifax Rail Station Update

- 2.53. Network Rail's renovation of the island platform canopy and the footbridge commenced in mid May. The renovation work is being carried out at weekends until 13 July and, as a consequence of this and other track works that Network Rail is carrying out in the immediate vicinity, no train services are calling at Halifax station on Saturdays and Sundays. Connecting bus services have been provided for passengers for the duration of the works. Full details of the travel arrangements are included in Metro's May 2009 Caldervale Line timetable and posters are displayed at rail stations.

- 2.54. It is anticipated that further improvements will be implemented by Network Rail at Halifax. These would be funded by the Department for Transport's National Station Improvement Programme, once the current renovation work is complete. The areas being considered for improvement are the waiting room on the island platform and the main entrance at bridge level.

Todmorden and Sowerby Bridge Car Park Improvements

- 2.55. The recently approved Leeds City Region Rail Growth Package, which will deliver the new rail stations at Apperley Bridge and Kirkstall Forge, also includes investment for car park improvements at a number of existing, local rail stations.
- 2.56. Improvements are proposed for both Sowerby Bridge and Todmorden stations on the Caldervale Line. Metro has commissioned Northern to carry out the outline feasibility studies and outline design work on the car park extensions and this is currently under way.
- 2.57. Available land currently owned by Network Rail will enable twenty-one additional car parking spaces to be provided at Todmorden and forty-nine additional spaces at Sowerby Bridge. The proposed works include improvements to lighting and CCTV facilities across the whole of each car park area.
- 2.58. It is likely that the improvements will be delivered by 2012, subject to all the necessary consents being obtained, including planning permission where this is necessary, and being affordable.
- 2.59. PCC Members will be kept informed of progress.

Hebden Bridge Rail Station Travel Plan

- 2.60. Metro has developed and submitted proposals to the Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC) for a Station Travel Plan for Hebden Bridge rail station as part of a national pilot initiative being co-ordinated by ATOC.
- 2.61. The Plan has been developed by Metro in partnership with Northern, Network Rail, Calderdale Council and Hebden Royd Town Council with the objective of promoting sustainable modes of access to the rail station including walking, cycling, public transport and car sharing.
- 2.62. The plan includes recommendations for minor station improvements and improvements along the walking and cycling routes to and from the town centre. Implementation of the proposed improvements will be subject to funding availability and affordability.
- 2.63. Metro will explore the possibility of attracting third party funding through the submission of DfT Access for All - Small Schemes Funding bids later this year to help with the implementation of the proposed improvements.

- 2.64. Whilst the Station Travel Plan should encourage some existing park and ride users to walk, cycle or car share on their journey to the station, Metro still recognises the need to consider opportunities for the provision of additional parking at the station and will continue to pursue this issue with Northern and Network Rail as part of an overall review of the existing car parking strategy.

Leeds Station Southern Entrance Proposal

- 2.65. Network Rail’s outline design work for the proposed Leeds Station Southern Entrance is progressing well. A pre-planning application consultation event will take place in Leeds Station in August 2009 to allow the public to comment on the scheme. It is anticipated that both the Planning Application and Major Scheme Business Case for the scheme will be submitted in August 2009.

Kickstart

- 2.66. DfT announced earlier this year a new round of Kickstart bids to pump prime new bus services in England and Wales. In total, £25 million is available to bid for and bids have to be submitted by the 6 July.
- 2.67. Metro is preparing two bids - a new MetroLocal service in the Brighouse area and an innovative partnership with Arriva in Wakefield City including potentially Park and Ride. The success of these bids will be known in the Autumn.

Congestion Performance Fund

- 2.68. The Congestion Performance Fund is additional to the LTP funding allocations received by the West Yorkshire authorities. It is allocated for measures to improve performance against a specific urban congestion target (which is measured across 13 routes in West Yorkshire).
- 2.69. To date West Yorkshire has been awarded £1,887,074 in Congestion Performance Funding. This includes a 100% award for out performing the 2007/08 target.
- 2.70. For 2009/10 the West Yorkshire authorities have identified a programme of measures to reduce person journey time per mile along the routes identified in West Yorkshire.
- 2.71. The programme includes 43 specific interventions covering all of the districts. The overall allocation of funding to types of measures is summarised in the table:

Table: Summary of the Congestion Performance Fund Programme 2009/10

Measure	Funding Allocated
Bus Priority	£403,000
Data Collection & Analysis	£315,000

Travel Planning	£240,000
Junction Improvements	£190,000
Traffic Management	£148,000
Car Park Management	£110,000
Car Clubs	£97,000
Enforcement	£76,500
Marketing	£60,000
Car Share	£22,000
Total	£1,661,500

Interreg Funding

- 2.72. Metro is participating in a partnership of North Sea area local authorities and universities to develop a project bid for European Commission (Interreg IVB North Sea Region) funding. The project is called CARE-North, which stands for 'Carbon Responsible Transport strategies for the North Sea Area'.
- 2.73. Project partners include Bremen (Germany), Malmö and Gothenburg (Sweden), Fryslan (Netherlands), Aberdeen and Robert Gordon University (UK). Bremen is the lead partner.
- 2.74. The project has been approved and will commence in autumn 2009 and run for 3 years. Metro will receive approximately €356,000 to assist the development and implementation of carbon reduction strategies for transport within West Yorkshire as part of the Local Transport Plan.

MetroFacts

- 2.75. Metro produces an annual statistics report called 'MetroFacts' which presents key facts and figures on public transport for West Yorkshire and the wider Leeds City Region. This report is compiled to provide a statistical overview of public transport and Metro's involvement. MetroFacts offers information on patronage, fares, modal shares, public transport performances and customer services and facilities.
- 2.76. The 'MetroFacts' report for 2007-08 is available to download from the Metro website at: <http://www.wymetro.com/AboutMetro/keymetrodata/>. An updated MetroFacts' for 2008-09 will be available in Autumn 2009.

World Cup 2018

- 2.77. In May, the English Football Association formally announced England's intention to bid to host the 2018 World Cup. The first stage in developing a bid will be the selection of the host cities. Leeds has been selected by the FA to be one of fifteen cities invited bid to become a host city for the event. Transport links to and around the Leeds City Region will be a major feature of the Leeds bid. Metro is working closely with Leeds City Council and the other City Region partners to develop transport proposals for the event.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1. That the report is noted.

Director General
West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive