

WEST YORKSHIRE INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

**AT A MEETING OF THE WAKEFIELD PASSENGER CONSULTATIVE
COMMITTEE HELD IN THE TOWN HALL, WAKEFIELD
ON THURSDAY 14 JANUARY 2010**

PRESENT: Councillor K Rhodes (Chair)

WYITA

Y Crewe
M Walker

PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES

Nigel Ashton
Karen Barkley
John Churms

Michael Dalton
Brenda Fruish
Dennis Pattinson

Also in attendance:

P Adcock - Arriva Yorkshire
D Haley - Northern

12. COUNCILLOR GRAHAM PHELPS

The Chair reported the sad death of Councillor Graham Phelps. He paid tribute to Councillor Phelps who had been a longstanding member of the Integrated Transport Authority and Wakefield Council and members stood for a minute's silence in his memory.

13. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Halliday, D Hopkins and B Smith and public representatives Pauline Blackburn and Barbara Darlison.

14. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 October 2009 be approved.

15. MEMBER FEEDBACK

The Committee considered a report advising members of the feedback received at the meeting of the Committee held on 8 October 2009 and to report the action taken.

With regard to Personal Travel Planning, comment was made that should the suggestion for a 'free day' on public transport be progressed it was essential that this be widely advertised.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted

16. INFORMATION REPORT

The Committee considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on information regarding current developments and issues affecting the Wakefield 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 had been circulated to members. Concern was expressed that these were not being implemented on the last weekend of the month which was the usual date. Members stressed the need for consistency to avoid confusion.

Members commended Arriva for the services provided during the bad weather.

Wakefield – Barnsley Services

It was reported that Tates Travel had agreed to maintain service 443/444 from January 2010 following Arriva's notice to withdraw the service. Members welcomed the retention of the services on their current frequency which would be numbered 97/97A.

Castleford and Pontefract Travel Centres

Members were advised that following Arriva's closure of their Travel Centres at Pontefract and Castleford, Metro was funding a service at both locations to provide information and permit verification until March 2010 whilst longer term options were considered. It was acknowledged that there had been issues with local post offices regarding the issue of some prepaid tickets and Metro was trying to address these.

Quality Contracts

The Committee welcomed the unanimous decision by the Integrated Transport Authority to pursue the development of a Quality Bus Contract Scheme. 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.

Realtime at Bus Stations

Comment was made that the realtime information screens installed at all bus stops had assisted passengers during the inclement weather. Although buses had not run to time, Arriva had maintained services where possible and they were thanked for their efforts. A new facility to enable the cancellation of

services to be displayed was under development and the benefits this would bring were welcomed by the Committee.

Visit by Sadiq Khan MP, Minister for Transport

Mr Pattinson, Vice Chair of the Committee, advised members of a recent visit to Wakefield and Leeds by Sadiq Khan MP, Minister for Transport.

The Department for Transport had arranged for Mr Khan to visit the area and travel by local bus services from Doncaster to Wakefield. His journey then continued from Wakefield to Chapel Allerton Hospital in Leeds, returning to Leeds City Centre.

It was reported that Mr Khan was pleased that he had been able to find the necessary information to make his connections from Wakefield to Leeds although he had been surprised that no realtime information had been available at the bus stop on Northgate for Service 110. This was because the design of shelter meant a display could not be installed.

North Wakefield Gateway Scheme

It was reported that following evaluation of responses from the public consultation exercise, an alternative scheme was being considered. It was anticipated that subject to Wakefield Council's Cabinet approval, the revised scheme could be implemented during the 2010/11 financial year. This would not only deliver many public transport benefits of the original scheme but would also meet the needs of local residents.

Wakefield Kirkgate Station

Members had previously been advised that Metro was leading a stakeholder group on the development of a 'master plan' for improving the station and surrounding area. This included potential land sale and commercial development of the disused station building and renewal of the station canopy.

It was reported that as part of the DfT's National Station Improvement Plan (NSIP) initiative, improvements including lighting, CCTV improvements and refurbishment of the subway and lobby area were to commence in December 2009. It was anticipated that these improvements would be completed by March 2010.

Wakefield Westgate Station

The Committee expressed concern regarding the closure of the Ticketing and Information Office at Westgate Station. It was reported that this was causing long queues and delays for people wanting to buy tickets for immediate travel and a letter would be sent to East Coast Main Line regarding the issue.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

17. **CONSULTATION ITEMS -**
- (a) **West Yorkshire's 3rd Local Transport Plan 2011-26 ('MyJourney' West Yorkshire)**
 - (b) **Marketing Plan**
 - (c) **Priorities for SmartCard Roll Out**

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. 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.

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.

In this respect it was suggested that people in bus queues be asked for their views. However it was acknowledged that there was also a need to include the views of non-users too.

Priorities for SmartCard Roll Out

It was reported that the Department for Transport (DfT) had announced a funding package of £20m to introduce 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 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.

Members considered it important to introduce a Smartcard system as soon as possible as it would encourage greater passenger use and enable services to be adjusted according to their usage.

Marketing Plan

The Committee was given 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.

It was suggested that breweries and public houses, particularly those on major bus routes, be asked to display public transport information posters and leaflets.

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.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted