

WEST YORKSHIRE INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AUTHORITY
AT A MEETING OF THE BRADFORD PASSENGER CONSULTATIVE
COMMITTEE HELD IN CITY HALL, BRADFORD
ON FRIDAY 21 JANUARY 2011

PRESENT: Councillor K Hussain (Chair)

WYITA

C Greaves
A Hawkesworth
A Longthorn
J Watmough

PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES

Bruce Barnes	John Prestage
Andrew Jewsbury	Keith Renshaw
Gordon Lakin	Rosie Watson
Gareth Logan	Peter Wilkinson
Graham Peacock	Andrew Wowk

BRADFORD MDC

M Ellis

Also in attendance:

J Grint	-	Bradford MDC
S Ottley	-	Arriva Yorkshire
M Muirhead-Reeves	-	CentreBus
M Summerscales	-	First
D Haley	-	Northern Rail
G Lomax	-	Transdev (Keighley & District Travel)

8. OPENING REMARKS

The Committee expressed their deepest sympathy to Sarah Naylor, whose Mother had recently passed away.

9. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Dodds and public representatives Jane Gibbon, Peter Ketley and Winston Williams.

10. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meetings held on 15 October 2010 and 25 November 2010 be noted.

11. MEMBER FEEDBACK

The Committee considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive advising members of the feedback received at the meeting held on 15 October 2010 and to report the action taken.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

12. INFORMATION REPORT

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

Comprehensive Spending Review

It was reported that there would be significant reductions in capital and revenue funding for transport in West Yorkshire following the Comprehensive Spending Review and funding announcements for local government. Central government funding for local government was expected to reduce by around 25% over the next 3 years although the impact on different authorities varied considerably.

Metro Budget

The Committee was advised that just less than 50% of Metro's budget came through the District Councils. Discussions on the levy for 2011/12 had taken account of affordability in view of the funding reductions and Metro was making a wide range of efficiency savings, including reducing staff numbers.

Local Sustainable Transport Fund

It was reported that the Government were to establish a Local Sustainable Transport Fund and local transport authorities outside London would be able to bid for a mix of capital and revenue funds. Full guidance was expected in the near future and Metro and the District Councils were considering the preparation of a bid.

Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs)

It was noted that the Government had approved the setting up of a new LEP which would be a partnership of both public and private sector organisations. Metro and city region partners were developing the arrangements for the LEP and it was anticipated that it would commence in early 2011. The new LEP, which would be private sector led, would be required to endorse city region bids prior to submission to Government.

Regional Growth Fund

It was noted that the Government had established a £1.4 billion Regional Growth Fund targeted at areas facing particular economic challenges arising from reductions in public expenditure. Metro was contributing to the development of a bid for the Castleford Employment Hub which included the Castleford Interchange scheme.

Disruptions Due to Bad Weather

The Committee discussed the severe disruptions to bus and rail services in Bradford during the recent bad weather. Members thanked the operators, Metro and Bradford MDC's gritting section for the efforts made to retain as many services as possible and keep passengers informed during that time.

Metro and operators had reviewed processes following the bad weather early in 2010 and systems had been put in place for operators to send regular updates to Metro which could then be used by MetroLine, travel centres and other bus station staff to advise customers of expected service operations. Metro's PR team ensured that disruption information was on the website within minutes and also used Facebook, Twitter and other mechanisms to disseminate information. It was recognised that any bus real time system would not be able to generate totally accurate predictions during severe disruption and it was hoped to be able to use screens in bus stations and shelters and the SMS messaging service to provide more up to date information. It was noted that Metro continued to explore ways of improving information services and it was proposed to establish emergency teams which would supplement bus station staff to assist passengers when there was severe disruption in future.

Customer Feedback

The Committee was advised of the new Customer Feedback system which had been installed at Metro. The system would identify key areas for improvement, enable better information sharing with operators, provide feedback reports and ensure that all targets for response times were met. Initial implementation problems had been resolved and the system was now providing an enhanced customer service.

Concessionary Travel

Members noted that a new concessionary travel scheme based on guidance issued by the Department for Transport (DfT) would be introduced on 1 April 2011.

Smartcard Update

The Committee was updated on progress in respect of the development of a Smartcard ticketing scheme. The move to the use of Smartcards was dependent on operators equipping their buses with smart enabled ticketing

machines. They were being encouraged to install these by the Department for Transport through enhanced Bus Service Operators Grant payments.

MetroCard Prices

It was reported that the prices of MetroCards and DayRovers (with the exception of the Metro Day ticket) had increased from 2 January 2011. Details of the increases were attached at Appendix A to the submitted report.

Service Changes

The Committee was advised that the next major timetable change would take place on the weekend of 29 January 2011. It was noted that these would be limited to minor timing changes to some services in Bradford and details would be set out in a copy of Metro's Changing Times leaflet which would be circulated to all PCC members in the near future.

Christmas/Boxing Day Services

It was noted that Metro had again funded the operation of services on core routes into Leeds and Huddersfield on 26 December 2010.

Rail Capacity

The Committee noted that total average loadings for the period May – December 2010 had shown an increase on Northern Rail services of 5.2% into and out of Leeds from the previous six month period. Members discussed the need for additional carriages and were advised that there was a shortage of rolling stock in a market that was heavily influenced by decisions made by the Department for Transport. The Government had confirmed 8 additional trains for the Northern Rail franchise to date, primarily operating in the North West of England. Any additional trains for West Yorkshire were subject to on-going commercial negotiations.

Cable Theft

It was noted that the increased incidence of cable theft was having a major impact on the rail network and until the recent bad weather it had been the main cause of train delay and cancellation. It was believed that the increase in theft was due mainly to the rise in copper prices. Members were advised of the rail industry's efforts and actions to reduce the number of cable theft and vandalism incidents. It was reported that the Chairman of the Authority had received a reply following his letter to the Magistrates Courts about cable theft. Members welcomed the Magistrates' positive response and their recognition of the severe disruption caused to the rail network by now imposing sentencing and fines to reflect the seriousness of the crimes.

Shelter Update (Clearchannel, Lighting Installation Programme)

It was reported that the project to provide advertising panels at over 1700 locations and low energy lighting at over 4,000 shelters was complete. The

income generated from the advertising panels would contribute to the cost of maintaining all shelters and stops throughout West Yorkshire. It was noted that the programme to replace life expired shelters continued across all West Yorkshire and 90 new shelters had been provided between April – December 2010.

CCTV Relocation & Customer Care Contract

Members were advised that Metro's CCTV team would be moving from Wellington House to Middleton in January 2011.

Hall Ings Bus Shelter

It was reported that complaints were still being received regarding the lack of weather protection from the shelter particularly during periods of heavy rain and strong winds. Members were advised that Bradford Council were now considering making improvements to the facility during installation works of the café and public space areas.

Saltaire Roundabout

The Committee was informed of the Connecting Airedale project which comprised a number of transport initiatives along the Aire Valley in Bradford. Stage 1 involved a package of improvements from Bankfield Roundabout to the Branch junction in Shipley including the remodelling of Saltaire Roundabout.

The scheme had been approved by Bradford Council and members were advised that Shipley Area Committee and the Environment and Waste Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee had given their full support to the works. Members recognised that this had been a difficult scheme to progress. They welcomed the innovative approach taken during the consultation process which had involved the local community and Area Committee who were fully supportive of the scheme. It was suggested that this process be repeated for future schemes.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

13. CONSULTATION ITEM – DEVELOPMENT OF THE WEST YORKSHIRE LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 3 (WYLTP3)

The Committee was updated on the ongoing development work for the preparation of the West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP3) 2011 – 2026 and the development of a 3 year Implementation Plan for 2011 – 2014.

Members were thanked for their input following the special joint meeting of all the PCCs in November 2010 and the key issues raised were outlined in the submitted report. The public consultation on the draft strategy had ended on

7 January 2011 and members were provided with a summary of the consultation feedback received to date.

It was reported that work with District partners and stakeholders was being undertaken to develop the first three year Implementation Plan for the period 2011-2014. The draft Implementation Plan reflected the reduced amount of LTP3 funding with future spending focussed on maintaining existing assets and reducing congestion to support jobs growth and carbon reduction in accordance with the themes in the draft strategy.

Members were advised that consultation on the draft Implementation Plan was scheduled from 24 January – 11 February 2011. The Implementation Plan would be published with the full West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan 2011-2026 by 1 April 2011.

The Committee recognised that facilities to accommodate interchange between transport modes, supported by co-ordination of bus and rail services, car clubs, ticketing and multi modal information etc would play a very important role in the future. It was reported that Metro was considering the development of pilot schemes to introduce transport hubs in each district. Members suggested Bingley and Ilkley would be ideal locations for a pilot scheme in Bradford.

Members were thanked for their participation and were asked to forward any further ideas or comments to Metro on the questionnaire provided at the meeting or by email to erica.ward@wypte.gov.uk.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the approach set out in the submitted report for developing WYLTP3 be noted.
- (b) That members' views be noted.