

AGENDA ITEM NO: 13

WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

AT A MEETING OF THE LEEDS PASSENGER CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE HELD AT WELLINGTON HOUSE, LEEDS ON MONDAY 15 JANUARY 2007

PRESENT: Councillor D Schofield (Chair)

WYPTA

D Blackburn
D Congreve
R Downes
S King

PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES

Jennifer Boden	Lucie Middlemiss
David Bowcock	Frank Priestley
Vera Foster	Anne Rayner
John Gallagher	Judith Rhodes
Philip Good	Eric Smith
Joyce Hutt	Ann Stocks
Rosemary Keenoy	

LEEDS CC

C Fox
J Lewis

Also in attendance:-

S Graham	-	First Leeds
S Bear	-	Arriva Yorkshire
D Mallender	-	First TransPennine Express
C Leslie	-	TSSA

11. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Jarosz and C Townsley and public representatives Barbara Kay, Janet Latham and Geoff Welburn.

12. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 October 2006 be approved.

13. FEEDBACK REPORT

The Committee considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive advising them of the feedback received at the meeting of the Committee held on 9 October 2006.

Members were thanked for their contributions regarding Metro's process for handling feedback on bus and rail service complaints and compliments and were reminded that individual detailed matters could be raised with Metro officers at the end of the meeting.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

14. INFORMATION REPORT

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

Disability Equality Scheme

The Committee noted that in order to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act 2005, Metro would be producing a Disability Equality Scheme to ensure that they promoted disability equality as well as preventing discrimination.

It was reported that bus companies were keen to replace their fleets and were investing heavily in providing low floor accessible vehicles. However this was a slow process and it would be several years before all vehicles were low floor accessible. It was noted that Metro had published a guide to accessible services for routes in West Yorkshire which operated with low floor accessible vehicles although it was impossible to guarantee that they would be available at all times. For passenger convenience and consistency, the bus operators sought to use low floor vehicles on a route to enable passengers to plan their journeys. However there were occasions when this was not possible and operators believed it was better to run the service with another vehicle rather than cancel the service. For passengers who relied on services operating with low floor vehicles, it was noted that the Real Time Information system indicated which services were low floor.

Members were advised that the provision of AccessBus was being reviewed because of the increase in demand. Metro was seeking approval to purchase additional vehicles and was aiming to convert all the existing fleet to low floor access by 2008.

Local Transport Plan Settlement

It was reported that notification had been received from the Government Office that West Yorkshire would receive funding of £27.96 million in 2007/08 rising to £32.657 million in 2010/11. This was based on an assessment of the performance of the 6 partners (Metro plus the five District Councils) during the first LTP period (2001-2006) and the quality of the second LTP.

2008 Concessionary Travel Scheme Proposals

Members were advised of the latest details regarding the introduction of a national free off-peak travel scheme on buses for people aged over 60 and certain disabled people. It was noted that all concessionary permits would need to be reissued to ensure that they could be verified by bus drivers in any part of the country. However the Government had not indicated how the issue of new permits would be funded.

Transport Innovation Fund

It was reported that the City Region bid for £1.7m of pump-priming funding had been refused by the Department for Transport. The DfT had emphasised that further bids could be made for substantive TIF funding although this would be difficult without the pump-priming funding. Other possible funding sources were being investigated.

GNER Franchise

Members were advised that GNER's franchise for East Coast Main Line services had been replaced by a short term management agreement with the DfT which was expected to last for 12-18 months. Expressions of interest for the new franchise had been invited and consultation on the content of the new franchise should be completed in February 2007.

Grand Central

It was reported that Grand Central Railways were proposing to run additional through services from Bradford and Halifax to London via Brighouse and Wakefield and it was expected that the services would commence in December 2007.

Bus Services in the Wharfe Valley Area

Members noted the MetroConnect services operating in the Ilkley, Guiseley and Otley areas following the announcement in November 2006 that Pegasus.com had gone into liquidation. Metro was thanked for their prompt action in maintaining the bus services in the area.

ftr Leeds

It was reported that the first 2 ftr vehicles had gone into service on route 4 and the remainder of the fleet would be phased in with full implementation by May 2007. Metro, First and Leeds City Council would evaluate the scheme as it progressed.

The Committee were advised of the role of the Customer Service Hosts on board the service and discussed the collection of fares and boarding and alighting arrangements.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

15. **CONSULTATION ITEMS -**
(a) Environment Strategy
(b) Transport Vision

Environment Strategy

Members were given a presentation on the Environment Strategy. It was reported that as part of Metro's commitment to environmental improvement and leading in promotion of sustainable forms of transport, the Environment Strategy was being updated.

Comment was made that one of the biggest challenges was how to get people out of their cars and reduce Carbon Dioxide emissions. It was reported that Metro was exploring incentives to achieve this including home working, Travel Plans and teleworking. The Committee discussed the use and production of other fuels for use by public transport vehicles such as bio-diesel. It was noted that diesel was currently the highest used fuel by bus operators in West Yorkshire.

A questionnaire was circulated at the meeting and members were asked for their views and comments on how Metro could reduce the environmental impact and develop an influencing role.

Transport Vision

Members were given a presentation covering the main components of the 25 year vision for transport across the City Region. Copies of the vision were available at the meeting and members were given the opportunity to contribute to the development of the implementation plan and prioritisation of schemes within the vision.

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