

**WEST YORKSHIRE INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AUTHORITY**

**AT A MEETING OF THE CALDERDALE PASSENGER CONSULTATIVE  
COMMITTEE HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, HALIFAX ON  
FRIDAY 18 DECEMBER 2009**

**PRESENT:** Councillor K Watson (Chair)

**PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES**

John Sheppard  
John Whiteley  
John Sykes

**CALDERDALE MC**

G Carter  
R Goldthorpe

**Also in attendance:**

D Shelley	-	Centrebus
R Harris	-	First
T Blackman	-	Halifax Joint Committee
M Knott	-	Halifax Joint Committee
K Waites	-	Observer

**13. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R Pearson (ITA) and public representatives J Calland, N Hull, P Melling and P Stocks.

**14. RURAL BUS SERVICES IN SOUTH CALDERDALE**

The Committee considered a report and a presentation of the Passenger Transport Executive on changes to tendered and commercial bus services in the South Calderdale area, which would take place from 24 January 2010.

It was reported that following consultation with members in October, tenders for a revised bus network had now been received and a contract had been awarded to Centrebus Holdings Ltd. Members were advised that Centrebus would provide new low floor vehicles and that timetables regarding the revised services would be available from mid January 2010.

The Committee was advised of the main issues raised during the consultation process, which had been addressed through the review of services. It was

noted that it had not proved possible to resolve the loss of service to Beech Road, Sowerby Bridge.

The presentation to members outlined the review of services to areas such as Booth Midgley, Savile Park, Copley and Skircoat Green, Boulderclough, Hubberton, Ryburn Valley, Ripponden, Greetland, Barkisland and Norland. Members were further advised of the new hourly Service E8, which would be operated by the Halifax Bus Company and would provide new links from Barkisland, Greetland, West Vale and Elland to Brighouse with peak period journeys extending to Brighouse rail station.

With regard to the Copley and Skircoat Green area, Councillor Carter commented on the need to ensure that the existing school bus service links to Ryburn Valley High School from the Copley area be maintained in order to allow for continuity in the provision of schools transport.

With regard to the Boulderclough and Hubberton areas, it was requested that consideration be given to operating early evening tendered Service 579 along Sowerby New Road.

In respect of the Ryburn Valley Area, Councillor Carter was most concerned at the loss of evening bus service to the Rishworth area after 7.00 pm. Councillor Carter expressed her serious concerns on behalf of the elderly and those residents in her ward who did not have access to cars and relied totally on public transport for their travel needs. Mr Harris of First explained the reasons behind the company's withdrawal of evening services to the Rishworth area. After considerable discussion, it was agreed that Metro and First would consider alternative options to improve evening accessibility to the area, with a view to reporting the outcome to a future meeting of the Committee.

Mr Shelley of Centrebus advised the Committee that the company had now acquired a small depot in the Lowfields area of Elland, which would be used as the company's base in Calderdale for 40/50 bus drivers and a management team. Engineering facilities would be available at the Lowfields' site with additional support at the company's main Huddersfield location. The first batch of vehicles was due to be delivered soon with the second batch arriving in February 2010.

The Chair advised the Committee that a copy of the presentation was available on Metro's website. He also thanked members and operators for attending the meeting and wished everyone a pleasant and happy Christmas and New Year.

**RESOLVED -**

- (a) That officers be thanked for their presentation.
- (b) That the Committee note the changes to bus services from January 2010, as shown in the presentation.