

1WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

**AT A MEETING OF THE KIRKLEES PASSENGER CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE TOWN HALL, DEWSBURY
ON WEDNESDAY 9 APRIL 2008**

PRESENT: Councillor K Hussain (Chair)

WYPTA

T Brice

PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES

John Appleyard

Don Burslam

Richard Fieldhouse

Shaun Jordan

Keith Parry

Shamir Patel

Christopher Taylor

KIRKLEES MC

A Pinnock

Also in attendance:

C Newbury

S Ottley

D Mallender

M Fenwick

T Singh

V Podgorski

B Gibson

- Arriva Yorkshire

- Arriva Yorkshire

- TransPennine Express

- First

- Stagecoach Yorkshire

- Kirklees MC

- Huddersfield Examiner

12. COUNCILLOR J S KING

The Chair advised the Committee of Councillor King's forthcoming retirement from Bradford Council and the Passenger Transport Authority (PTA) in May 2008. He thanked Councillor King for his valuable contributions to meetings of the Committee and members wished him well for the future.

In response, Councillor King thanked everyone for their help and assistance and added that it had been a great pleasure to serve on the Authority.

13. COUNCILLOR K HUSSAIN

The Chair announced that he would be standing down as a member of the PTA in May. He thanked members for their contributions to the meetings and asked for his appreciation to be passed on to all staff at Metro for their support during his term of office on the PTA.

14. MR D BURSLAM

The Chair welcomed Mr Burslam to the meeting following his unfortunate accident earlier in the year.

15. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors T Brice and L Wilkinson and public representatives Mark Denton, Sharon Fallows and David Hargreaves.

16. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of this Committee held on 16 January 2008 be approved.

17. MEMBER FEEDBACK

The Committee considered a report advising members of the feedback received at the meeting of the Committee held on 16 January 2008 and to report the action taken.

With regard to the consultation item on Promotion of Public Transport to Non-Users presented to the previous meeting, it was suggested that a marketing campaign be arranged detailing a comparison of costs between private and public transport.

It was noted that members had asked for Arriva to provide feedback on the basis for their decision to reroute Service 221 in North Kirklees. Arriva had advised that the decision had been made for commercial reasons but other services had been adjusted to serve some of the affected areas.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

18. INFORMATION REPORT

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

MetroLocal

Members welcomed the success of the MetroLocal service and it was reported that plans were being finalised to operate similar services in Dewsbury and Batley from Summer 2008.

Colne Valley Bus Services

Members noted that the DfT funding for the operation of the MetroConnect TaxiBus service in the Colne Valley would cease in April 2008. Following consultation with users, changes had been made to the local bus network to address many of the travel needs currently being provided by the TaxiBus. However some passengers who used the demand responsive elements of the service and lived some distance from the bus routes would unfortunately be affected by the withdrawal of the TaxiBus. As an interim measure, a TaxiBus service would operate until July 2008 to maintain transport links to Wilberlee Primary School. This would also provide an off peak service for people in the more remote parts of the area and consideration was being given regarding the longer term future of the service.

Dewsbury Bus Services

It was reported that following concerns raised regarding Arriva's service changes in January, the route of Service 213 had been altered to maintain links in the High Street area. Further discussions would be held in relation to routes in Dewsbury Moor.

Boxing Day Bus Services

It was reported that following the pilot operation of daytime bus services on core routes into Leeds and Huddersfield on Boxing Day, plans were being made for a similar operation in 2008. It was requested that Cleckheaton and Heckmondwike be considered for inclusion in any extension to the network.

Bus Station Real Time Displays

It was reported that the bus station displays at Batley, Cleckheaton and Ossett had been connected to the YourNextBus real time system and displayed predicted departure times for all the tracked services. The roll out of real time information would commence at Keighley Bus Station in April followed by Halifax and Dewsbury. It was expected that the remaining bus stations at Bradford, Huddersfield, Leeds, Pontefract and Wakefield would be completed by the end of the year.

Comment was made that the retail units at Batley and Cleckheaton bus stations had been closed and members asked for them to be reopened at the earliest opportunity as they provided a useful facility at the bus stations.

New Rail Station Prioritisation

Members were advised that following the last review of proposed new rail stations for West Yorkshire, new guidance had been published which focused on four key areas – operational, engineering, business case and policy fit.

It was noted that due to changes to the structure of the rail industry, capacity constraints, increased passenger demand and construction costs, there was a

need to refresh the list of previously identified sites in RailPlan 5 together with any new suggested sites. Consultants had been commissioned to undertake the work and, as part of the study, they would develop an assessment framework that would assess each proposed station. It was anticipated that the study would lead to a new prioritised list of potential new rail station sites and the results of the study would be considered by the Authority later in the year.

Members asked for details of any possible sites in the Kirklees area that may be included on the new list.

Information at Rail Stations

The Committee noted the details of a scheme to provide improvements to passenger information at all stations within West Yorkshire. The scheme would replace the existing system with a central, co-ordinated system based in Leeds. It was expected that the scheme would be installed and commissioned by Spring 2009.

Members asked that the new system be compatible with advances in real time train information currently being planned by the rail industry.

Help Points at Rail Stations

Members were advised that help points were a franchised commitment and Metro had raised the serious issue of the high proportion of station help points being out of order with Northern. They had asked for a position statement and action plan to urgently address the problem.

The Committee stressed the importance of help points at rail stations, particularly with the decline of public telephones and expressed concern about the current situation with help points. Members commended First TransPennine Express for the robust units they had installed at Huddersfield Station.

Tram-Train Trials

It was reported that a 'tram-train' was to be trialled for the first time in the UK on the Penistone Line. The trial would commence in 2010 over a two year period and would look at the environmental benefits, costs, technical suitability and passenger perception.

The Committee acknowledged that tram-train would offer new opportunities but members were concerned that the new rolling stock may not be sufficient to meet current patronage growth and that passenger facilities, such as toilets, must be maintained and if possible enhanced.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

19. **CONSULTATION ITEMS -**
(a) Metro Messenger Service Development
(b) Bus Service Operators Grant
(c) New Concessionary Entitlement

Metro Messenger Service Development

The Committee were given a short presentation on the Metro Messenger service and members' views were sought on the current service and how it could be further developed.

Bus Service Operators Grant

It was reported that The Department for Transport (DfT) were currently consulting on options for change to the current arrangements for bus subsidies, in particular the Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG).

Members were given a short presentation and comment was made that it was difficult to comment on the consultation because the objectives of the DfT's exercise were not clear. It was suggested that a summary be sent to all PCC members for further consideration.

New Concessionary Entitlement

Members were aware of the new rules for concessionary travel entitlement which had become effective on 1 April 2008. They were given a presentation detailing what Metro had done to date to communicate information and were asked for any ideas or suggestions on how further marketing and communication should be carried out.

Comment was made that it was essential for it to be made clear what the passes could be used for, particularly in relation to cross boundary travel. Members reiterated their concern regarding the withdrawal of some bus services into South Yorkshire and the problems which had been encountered as a result.

Future Consultation Item

It was reported that at a recent meeting with PCC members to discuss the Transport Governance Review, the issue of cross boundary services within an integrated transport authority area was raised. This would be discussed as a consultation item at a future PCC meeting.

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.

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