

WEST YORKSHIRE INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

AT A MEETING OF THE LEEDS PASSENGER CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE HELD AT WELLINGTON HOUSE, LEEDS ON MONDAY 29 MARCH 2010

PRESENT: Councillor C Campbell (Chair)

WYITA

R Downes
G Hyde
J Jarosz
P Wadsworth

PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES

Anthony Austwick	Rosemary Keenoy
David Bowcock	Jim Kerr
Brian Cooper	Frank Priestley
Ian Davies	Eric Smith
Edward Gale	Charles Stones
Philip Good	Bill Tymms

LEEDS CC

J McKenna

Also in attendance:-

C Newbury	-	Arriva Yorkshire
M Summerscales	-	First Leeds
D Mallender	-	First TransPennine Express
D Haley	-	Northern Rail

19. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Congreve (WYITA) and C Fox (Leeds CC) and public representatives Joyce Hutt, Lynn Jones and Hazel Lee.

20. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2010 be approved.

21. MEMBER FEEDBACK

The Committee considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive advising members of the feedback received at the meeting of the Committee held on 18 January 2010 and to report the action taken.

Members were advised that a special joint PCC meeting to discuss the Local Transport Plan 3 and realtime system had been arranged for 15 April 2010 where members would be given an opportunity for more in depth consultation.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

22. INFORMATION REPORT

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

Bank Holiday Bus Services 2010

Members noted the pattern of services agreed with local bus operators for Bank Holidays during 2010.

Service Changes

The Committee was updated on the forthcoming service changes scheduled for 24/25/26 April 2010. A copy of the Changing Times leaflet giving full details of the changes would be circulated to members in the near future.

With regard to changes in West Leeds, comment was made regarding proposals to improve Services 85, 86 and 87 as a replacement for the withdrawn Service 44/44A. Concern was expressed regarding the loss of link to Rein Road, which would result in people residing in the Broad Lane area having a considerable walk to catch a service.

Bus Services to Leeds Bradford International Airport

Members noted the revised network of bus services to Leeds Bradford International Airport (LBIA) to take effect from 25 April 2010. The services would operate to the same timetable every day with an earlier start and later finish to assist airport travellers and workers. It was reported that arrangements would be made for passengers in Pool to purchase a through ticket to Leeds using Services 757/967.

With regard to Service 757 (Leeds direct to LBIA), members queried the luggage storage capacity of the vehicles to be operated on the route. In response, it was advised that the operator, Centrebus, had obtained low floor vehicles specifically adapted to carry luggage that had been previously used for services to Heathrow airport.

DalesBus Services

It was noted that the DalesBus service improved access to the Dales for West Yorkshire residents on Sundays and Bank Holidays and Metro would continue to support the initiative in 2010. In this respect, members commended the initiative.

NGT Project

It was reported that approval had been given for 'Programme Entry' for the NGT project which was the first stage in the government approval process. In order to obtain the legal powers to construct and operate a trolleybus system, Metro and Leeds City Council were applying for a Transport and Works Act Order (TWAO) during 2010. It was then expected that the Secretary of State would request a Public Inquiry to be held during 2011. Construction of the network could commence in 2013 with the first trolleybuses operating by 2016. Further details about the NGT proposals and TWAO process could be found at www.ngtmetro.com.

Members were informed that the DfT approval did not include the St James' Hospital route. However, both Metro and Leeds City Council would continue to investigate options to implement this section of the scheme.

Leeds City Centre Tourist Bus

It was reported that Metro had been assisting Visit Yorkshire in the development of a trial open top bus service to provide a guided tour around the City Centre encompassing the Leeds Armouries Museum and University. Plans were currently being finalised, but it was proposed concessionary fare passes would not be eligible on the service in common with similar services elsewhere in the country.

Quality Bus Contracts

The Committee was updated on progress regarding the development of the business case and Public Interest Statement for Quality Contracts (bus franchising). It was anticipated that the Public Interest Statement would be available for consultation during the summer and progress would be reported to future meetings of the Committee.

Cycle Hub at Leeds Rail Station

Members noted the details of the Cycle Point scheme at Leeds Station which was scheduled for completion during Summer 2010. The scheme was being funded in partnership by the Department for Transport, Northern Rail, Metro and Network Rail.

East Coast "Eureka" Timetable

Members were advised that a standard hour 'clockface' timetable would be introduced on the East Coast Main Line from May 2011. Trains would arrive and depart Leeds at the same time every hour and journeys between Leeds and London reduced by 11 minutes.

Mr Tymms advised members that most of the 'clockface' times scheduled to be introduced did connect well with off peak local services running into Leeds rail station. Fewer trains would be stopping at Peterborough, Newark and Retford from Leeds and vice versa from London Kings Cross. This would

adversely impact on passengers travelling to and from these stations. The Chair concurred with his concerns and requested that the matter be investigated further by Metro officers to determine how many passengers using the stations in question would be affected.

High Speed Rail

It was reported that the Department for Transport had published its paper setting out the response to High Speed Two Ltd's recommendations and its assessment of the case for an initial core high speed rail network in the UK. The paper outlined an initial core network from London to Birmingham but with two spurs, one to Manchester and one via the East Midlands, Sheffield and Leeds.

Councillor Downes advised the Committee that the initiative was very much in the early stages and it would be some considerable time before it came to fruition. It was, therefore, essential that Metro and other stakeholders continued to lobby the Government to ensure that the East Coast link be funded and implemented in parallel or before the West Coast connection.

Smartcard Funding

It was reported that the Department for Transport (DfT) had announced a funding package of £20m to support the development of smart and integrated ticketing. Metro and South Yorkshire PTE had been allocated £2.2m each and would work together to jointly procure the necessary infrastructure for implementing ITSO smartcard schemes. The DfT had also announced an 8% increase to the Bus Services Operators Grant (BSOG) rate for bus operators that introduced smartcard infrastructure on their buses.

The Committee was advised that Metro and South Yorkshire PTE were working together to develop the YorCard programme which would support a regional roll out of the scheme. A detailed project plan was being prepared and progress would be reported to future meetings.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

- 23. CONSULTATION ITEMS:-**
- (a) Review of the Last Term of PCC Meetings**
 - (b) Integrated Ticketing**
 - (c) Disruptions Due to Bad Weather**
 - (d) Leeds Rail Station Cycle Hub**

Review of the Last Term of PCC Meetings

Members were thanked for their input to the wide range of consultation items considered at PCC meetings during their term of office. They were given a short presentation on the topics that had been covered and were given the opportunity to comment on their experience as a PCC public representative.

The recruitment process for the next 3 year term would commence in the near future and the public representatives would be forwarded an application form in due course.

Members suggested that more joint meetings be held with other Passenger Consultative Committees in order to facilitate the sharing of information.

Discussions ensued regarding Metro's complaints and correspondence system, in particular the length of time it could take to receive a reply when submitted via the website. Members proposed that a 'fast track' system be introduced for public representatives when reporting public transport issues. In response, it was stated that staff shortages had led to some delays. However, it was Metro's aspiration that a reply be sent to correspondents within 2 weeks of receipt.

With regard to the format of the meeting, it was suggested that a section at the beginning of each meeting be allocated to ask questions of the bus and rail operators in attendance. Operators agreed to this, but requested that if the questions to be tabled required further investigations that they be given sufficient notification beforehand. The Chair agreed to this format being trialled at the next meeting. It was also explained that members were able to submit items for discussion on the PCC agenda by contacting the ITA office 2 weeks prior to the meeting taking place.

It was also suggested that an invitation to attend future meetings of the Committee be extended to Network Rail, as members felt that their presence would be beneficial when discussing rail service issues.

Integrated Ticketing

It was noted that there was currently a wide range of ticket options available to public transport users and it was recognised that these could be confusing for passengers.

The Committee was advised of the development and roll out of SmartCard ticketing and the options to introduce Quality Contracts which would offer opportunities to develop a more fully integrated ticketing scheme in West Yorkshire. They were given a short presentation and their views were sought on how to take forward a ticketing plan for West Yorkshire.

Members agreed that a system similar to that of the Oyster Card would be extremely beneficial to the travelling public.

Disruptions Due to Bad Weather

The Committee was advised that Metro had undertaken a review of how customers had been kept informed of the disruptions to public transport during the recent bad weather. Members were given a presentation and it was noted that an action plan had been developed to take the recommendations of the review forward. Their views on areas for further improvement were sought.

It was essential that liaison with Highways Departments be undertaken between Metro and bus operators in order to facilitate improved co-ordination of gritting of bus routes.

The Chair requested that the final version of the action plan be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

Members overall commended the high level of service provided by the bus and rail operators during the inclement weather and congratulated them on their hard work.

Leeds Rail Station Cycle Point

Members were given a presentation which provided details of the Leeds Station Cycle Point project and the marketing plan for the scheme. Their views and suggestions on the marketing plan were sought together with any additional ideas on how the scheme could be promoted.

Members commended the initiative and suggested that the scheme be promoted to those living in the inner city apartment blocks, as they often did not have sufficient space to accommodate cycles.

Members were again thanked for their suggestions to all the consultation items and for their time and efforts provided to the committee during their 3 year term. They were 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 -

- (a)** That PCC members' feedback and views be noted.
- (b)** That the suggested format to allow questions of the bus and rail operators at the beginning of each meeting be trialled at the next meeting of the Committee.
- (c)** That an invitation to attend future meetings of the Committee be extended to Network Rail.