

AGENDA ITEM NO: 13c

WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

AT A MEETING OF THE KIRKLEES PASSENGER CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE HELD IN THE TOWN HALL, HUDDERSFIELD ON WEDNESDAY 14 JANUARY 2009

PRESENT: Councillor M Bolt (Chair – to minute 17)

WYPTA

E Firth
A Pinnock

PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES

John Appleyard (Chair from minute 17)
Don Burslam
Mark Denton
Richard Fieldhouse
David Hargreaves
William Kirby
Kathleen O'Shea
Keith Parry
Chris Taylor

KIRKLEES MC

L Wilkinson

Also in attendance:

C Newbury	-	Arriva Yorkshire
S Ottley	-	Arriva Yorkshire
H Robinson	-	Arriva Yorkshire
C Burley	-	Arriva Yorkshire
S Rawson	-	Arriva Yorkshire
K Leech	-	First Huddersfield
T Singh	-	Centrebus
C Simpson	-	Centrebus
D Mallender	-	TransPennine Express
B Gibson	-	Huddersfield Examiner

12. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Tim Lawrence (Kirklees MC) and S Gostellow (TSSA).

13. WELCOME

The Chair welcomed William Kirby to his first meeting as a public representative.

14. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 October 2008 be approved.

15. MEMBER FEEDBACK

The Committee considered a report advising members of the feedback received at the meeting of the Committee held on 8 October 2008 and to report the action taken.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted

16. INFORMATION REPORT

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

Passenger Information Enhancements at Rail Stations

It was noted that Metro had been working in partnership with Northern, Network Rail and the Department of Transport to improve the Long Line Public Announcement and Customer Information Systems at a large number of rail stations in West Yorkshire. It was anticipated that the new information screens would be installed by March 2009 and a new centralised passenger information control system in operation by Summer 2009.

Accessibility at Rail Stations Update

Members were advised of progress on the scheme to provide full disabled access at Huddersfield Rail Station. It was anticipated that the lift and subway would be open in Summer 2009. Mr Mallender of TransPennine Express advised members that that the management of passenger movements whilst the subway works were being undertaken would be considered when the phasing of the works was discussed with their contractor.

Mirfield Rail Station

It was reported that Regional Transport Funding had been approved for a 'Leeds Rail Growth Package'. Mirfield Station was one of a number of local rail stations that would benefit from 33 additional car parking facilities as part of the project. Members welcomed the proposed improvements but stressed the need for a fully integrated transport system in order to meet future demand. A detailed implementation plan was being developed and progress would be reported to future meetings.

Rail Performance

Members noted the rail performance figures for the period 9 November 2008 to 6 December 2008. It was noted that Northern had achieved a Public Performance Measure (a combined measure of punctuality and cancellations) of 79.32% which fell below their target of 85.95%.

The Committee discussed the performance figures and the seasonal problem of leaf fall as well as continuing cable theft incidents. The Chair would write to Northern to express the Committee's disappointment that there was no representative at the meeting to answer members' concerns and queries.

Boxing Day Services

The Committee was given an update on the performance of Boxing Day bus services funded by Metro. Services had operated on core routes to and from the centres of Leeds, Huddersfield and several other areas where it was known that a significant number of retailers were opening for business. It was reported that although the passenger usage figures were not yet fully available the services had been well used. It was hoped that it may be possible to operate some commercial services on Boxing Day 2009.

MetroLocal Update

It was noted that MetroLocal services had been introduced in Batley, Birstall and Birkenshaw during October 2008 and the services in Spenn Valley had been expanded. Two routes in Huddersfield had been revised and the publicity amended to better reflect the 'hopper bus' style of the service. Additional promotion of all the routes would be undertaken during the New Year.

The Committee was advised that Metro were runners up in the Accessibility award category at the UK Bus Awards for the new MetroLocal service in Kirklees and it was hoped that the model could be rolled out to other areas of West Yorkshire.

Rural Services Update

Members were updated about the ongoing work to support rural bus services in the Kirklees area. A three year partnership project had been developed with Kirklees Council to jointly fund new or enhanced bus services in the south and west of Kirklees. Details of the services, which would be reviewed at the end of January 2009, were outlined in the submitted report. Comment was made that it was essential for the services to be widely promoted in order to attract patronage as they were provided on a 'use it or lose it' basis. Metro would publicise the services and the Chair asked for the assistance of the Huddersfield Examiner in promoting them.

Colne Valley

It was reported that Stotts Coaches had been awarded a new five year contract for the operation of services which provided links between communities in the Colne Valley area and Huddersfield using new low floor buses.

St George's Square

It was noted that the improvement works to St George's Square continued with new passenger shelters installed as part of the overall scheme with Kirklees Council. Concern was expressed regarding the access to both bus services and the rail station. It was reported that lighting and signage was poor and that it was difficult to drop off or pick up passengers at the rail station. Metro was requested to write to Kirklees Council regarding the issues raised and ask that a representative attend the next meeting of the Committee to provide a progress report.

Heckmondwike New Bus Facilities

It was reported that Kirklees Council and Metro were working on proposals for a centralised bus facility as part of a new Library and Information Centre (LIC) for Heckmondwike. The new facility would provide CCTV, real time information, lighting and seating. A detailed programme for the work and consultation strategy was being developed by Kirklees Council with input from Metro. Members expressed their disappointment that progress was being delayed due to a local land issue which could result in a cost increase for the scheme.

Realtime Update

It was noted that over 900 real time display units had been provided in passenger shelters and the project was now complete with positive feedback being received from bus operators and members of the public.

Members welcomed the system but highlighted the problem of late running, untracked services disappearing from the screens before arriving at the stop. It was acknowledged that there were some issues regarding the displays which were being addressed by ACIS, the supplier of the system.

Timetable Cases

It was reported that the first phase of a project to provide new timetable cases at freestanding bus stops would commence in the near future. A progress report would be provided to the next meeting.

Local Transport Act

Members noted the key changes to the Authority's responsibilities as a result of the recent legislation which were detailed in the submitted report. It was also reported that from February 2009 the Passenger Transport Authority would change its name to the West Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority (ITA).

Travel for Work Project Update

Members were updated on progress with the implementation of the travel for work project and were advised that Yorkshire Forward had provided additional funding for a further 1500 tickets for jobseekers across West Yorkshire. The project had saved an estimated 8060 tonnes of travel for work related CO₂ emissions through the Travel Plan Network which provided dedicated workplace travel planning support to employers in West Yorkshire.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

17. CONSULTATION ITEMS -

- (a) Low Carbon Demonstration Pilot**
- (b) Carbon Reduction Marketing Campaign**
- (c) Arriva Service Changes**
- (d) Economic Climate and the Public Transport Industry**

Low Carbon Demonstration Pilot

It was reported that Metro was seeking funding from the Regional Transport Board to develop a Low Carbon Demonstration Project. The project would focus on the provision of a small fleet of hybrid buses and a package of supporting measures to reinforce Metro's aim to promote change in travel behaviour and lock in the benefits of modal shift.

Members were given a presentation on the aims, objectives and expected outcomes of a Low Carbon Demonstration project and their views and feedback was sought.

It was reported that following discussions between Kirklees Council, Arriva and Metro, the preferred local route was services 202/3. Whilst welcoming the option proposed, members were concerned that it would not address congestion along the A62 from Huddersfield to Leeds. Comment was made that attractive alternatives to the car needed to be available in order to encourage modal-shift.

The Committee discussed the importance of traffic priorities being in place for the pilot and also that there should be an identifiable target for passenger numbers. A package of measures would be developed to monitor the scheme. Once an area and route had been agreed, a detailed cost benefit analysis would be carried out.

Members were asked to consider areas or routes where a pilot scheme could be carried out and asked to forward any suggestions on the questionnaire provided.

Carbon Reduction Marketing Campaign

The Committee were given a presentation on a proposed carbon reduction

marketing campaign to be carried out during 2009 which was aimed at:

- Targeting congestion on various main routes in West Yorkshire
- Informing the public about how carbon footprints could be reduced by using public transport
- Promoting MetroCards for multi modal, multi operator travel
- Working with Travel Plan Network employers to encourage the use of alternative modes of transport to the car for travelling to work.

Members were given the opportunity to provide input and feedback on the proposed campaign.

With regard to promoting MetroCards, it was suggested that the price of MetroCards and fares should not be increased during 2009 and that consideration be given to the sale of DayRover tickets on trains and at other outlets due to the closure of many local Post Offices.

Economic Climate and the Public Transport Industry

The Committee discussed the general economic downturn which was having a significant effect in West Yorkshire including increased unemployment. Members were asked for their views on what Metro and the public transport industry could do to support people affected by the current economic climate.

Arriva Service Changes

The Committee was given a presentation by representatives from Arriva Yorkshire on the changes planned for services operating from their Heckmondwike depot.

Members were advised that 60% of services from the Heckmondwike depot ran at a loss and Arriva had carried out a comprehensive review of services in the area.

The Committee were given an overview of the proposed changes and members were invited to contact Arriva if they required more detailed information. All feedback was needed by 6 February 2009 as the service changes had to be registered by 25 February 2009, prior to implementation on 25 April 2009.

Members thanked Arriva for the early notification and requested that the changes be publicised at the earliest opportunity.

Members were thanked for their suggestions to all the consultation items and asked to forward any further ideas or comments on the questionnaires provided at the meeting.

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