

WEST YORKSHIRE INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

AT A MEETING OF THE LEEDS PASSENGER CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE HELD AT WELLINGTON HOUSE, LEEDS ON MONDAY 4 OCTOBER 2010

PRESENT: Councillor M Lyons (Chair)

WYITA

R Downes
M Coulson
W Hyde
J Lewis
J Matthews
E Taylor

PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES

David Brady	Rosemary Keenoy
Paul Chadwick	Catherine Keighley
Brian Cooper	Hazel Lee
Rachael Elliott	Alan Oldroyd
Raymond Finlayson	Eric Smith
Edward Gale	Ann Stocks
John Gittos	Charles Stones
David Hope	Bill Tymms
Keith Huggins	Peter Wood

LEEDS CC

C Fox

Also in attendance:-

R Harris	-	First Leeds
D Brookes	-	Centrebus
L Bowyer	-	YEP

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from public representative Neal Ricketts and Mr A Haley, Northern.

2. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR

RESOLVED - That the election of the Deputy Chair of the Committee be deferred until the next meeting.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meetings held on 29 March 2010 and 15 April 2010 be noted.

4. MEMBER FEEDBACK

The Committee considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive advising members of the feedback received at the meeting held on 29 March 2010 and to report the action taken.

With regard to disruptions to public transport due to bad weather, it was reported that work was ongoing with operators to develop and improve the disruption action plan. A further update would be provided at the next meeting.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

5. INFORMATION REPORT

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

Bus Services Changes Summer/Autumn 2010

Members commented on the significant number and frequency of changes to services and the need for a stable network was stressed. It was noted that further changes were planned for the weekend of 30/31 October 2010 and a copy of the Changing Times leaflet giving full details of the changes would be circulated to members in the near future.

The Committee also discussed the frequent rise in bus fares and it was noted that this would be addressed as part of integrated ticketing if Bus Quality Contracts were to be introduced. A joint consultation meeting of the PCCs would be arranged for November/December to consider Bus Quality Contracts and the Local Transport Plan 3. Mr Harris advised members that First's fares structure had been changed in an attempt to simplify the fare scale. They intended to make further improvements and it was hoped that fare changes would then be minimised to an annual increase in the future.

Members discussed the importance of integrated ticketing which would alleviate the confusion caused by operators issuing their own tickets which were not valid on all services. It was reported that discussions had been held with bus operators to introduce one integrated ticket but no agreement had been reached as yet.

Centrebus Services

It was reported that Centrebus was operating several tendered services in the district and they had established a new depot near Kirkstall Road, Leeds. In view of the change of operator, Centrebus had accepted First ticket products during the initial week of operation in July 2010.

YourNextBus On-Street Displays

It was noted that there had been recent problems with on-street displays at bus stops showing scheduled rather than real time predictions. Members were advised that following several months of investigation by the supplier, the cause of the problems had been identified and errors rectified.

Comments were made that information displayed at some stops and shelters was difficult to read due to the size of the print and there were problems regarding the positioning of screens which sometimes reflected sunlight. Metro advised that the print size varied depending on the amount of information required at each stop and the issues regarding the real time screens reflecting sunlight would be investigated on a case by case basis.

Advertising on Buses

Several public representatives commented on the positioning of adverts on the windows of some of First's services which blocked passengers' views and made the inside of the vehicles dark. They asked if it would be possible to replace them with the pinhole type of advert which did not block the light or vision out of the window. Mr Harris commented that the adverts complied with First Group's national policy and guidelines but he would pass members' concerns and suggestions on to the company.

MetroDay

The Committee welcomed the new MetroDay ticket which had been introduced in July 2010. Early indications were that the ticket was proving popular and work would continue to ensure all drivers were aware of the new product.

Metro Active

It was reported that following the success of the previous year's campaign, the MetroActive ticket had been introduced during August 2010. Data was being collated to inform any future proposals and Metro was grateful to the operators for participating in the campaign. Members welcomed the campaign and asked if it would be possible to also run it during the Easter holidays. Metro agreed to raise the request at the TICCO meeting for operators' consideration.

Cycle Point at Leeds Rail Station

It was reported that the new Cycle Point facility at Leeds Station was operational and had been officially opened by Norman Baker MP, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport.

Public Spending Cuts

The Committee was updated on the effect the public spending cuts would have on Metro. It was noted that Local Transport Plan funding for Integrated

Transport had been reduced by 25% for the current year along with a 50% reduction in the LTP uplift money. Metro had reviewed its capital programme and amended its plans for the year.

The Government announcement to suspend the major schemes process had affected the NGT scheme, Leeds Station Southern Entrance, Castleford Interchange and the Rail Growth Package with only very limited spending taking place to keep the schemes viable.

It was reported that Metro had started to assess the impact of any potential levy reduction in 2011. Metro's levy was the lowest of any ITA and around 50% of its expenditure was in mandatory areas over which it had no discretion, such as concessions and rail. That would mean that in real terms any cut in the levy would impact heavily on areas of discretionary spend. A cut in the levy would require Metro to carefully consider all areas of expenditure including child concessions, tendered services, back office functions and all frontline service areas.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

6. CONSULTATION ITEM – DEVELOPMENT OF THE WEST YORKSHIRE LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 3 (WYLTP3)

Members noted progress on the development of the West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan for 2011 – 26 and were advised of the forthcoming consultation which would be held for ten weeks from late October to mid December 2010.

A presentation was made at the meeting which provided members with the key issues and objectives for the draft LTP3 and they were asked to participate in Qwizdom, a pilot interactive consultation approach. Members' views in relation to a number of questions were captured through this and would feed into the LTP preparation process.

It was noted that a further joint meeting/workshop for all the Passenger Consultative Committees would be arranged during November/December to provide further opportunities to help shape the development of LTP3.

Members were thanked for their participation in the interactive consultation and were asked to forward any further ideas or comments to Metro on the questionnaire provided at the meeting or by email to erica.ward@wypte.gov.uk.

RESOLVED –

- (a)** That the approach set out in the submitted report for developing WYLTP3 be noted.
- (b)** That members' views be noted.