

AGENDA ITEM NO: 2

WEST YORKSHIRE INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

AT A MEETING OF THE CALDERDALE PASSENGER CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE HELD IN THE TOWN HALL, HALIFAX ON TUESDAY 4 OCTOBER 2011

PRESENT: Councillor D Hardy (Chair)

WYITA

J Lewis

PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| Myra James | Peter Stocks |
| Peter Melling | John Sykes |
| John Myddelton | John Whiteley |
| John Sheppard | |

CALDERDALE MC

C Pillai
K Watson

Also in attendance:

| | | |
|-----------------|---|-----------------------|
| B Broxholme | - | First |
| N Walsh | - | T J Walsh |
| C Simpson | - | Centrebus |
| P Stubbs | - | Calderdale MC |
| Sgt R Cloughton | - | West Yorkshire Police |

6. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor B Collins, D Haley (Northern) and T Singh (Centrebus).

7. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2011 be noted.

8. MEMBER FEEDBACK

The Committee considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive advising members of the feedback received at the meeting held on 12 July 2011 and to report the action taken.

At the last meeting the Committee had been consulted on Area Bus Network Reviews and RailPlan 7 and the key points raised were outlined in the

submitted report. All the PCCs had provided feedback on the proposed area bus network reviews via the interactive Qwizdom questionnaire and the responses were attached at Appendix A to the submitted report.

With regard to RailPlan 7, members strongly supported the need for a rail station at Elland in view of the continuing economic development and population growth in the area. Comment was made that a station at Elland would give passengers the opportunity to make longer as well as commuter journeys.

Members were advised that a study into the feasibility and business case for improving the rail service on the Caldervale line was being undertaken and Metro would ensure that the Committee's comments and any further information that could be provided by Calderdale MC would be fed into the study.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

9. INFORMATION REPORT

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

Safer Travel West Yorkshire

Members were advised that the Police, working with Metro and the bus operators, had formed the Safer Travel West Yorkshire partnership. The partnership had been formed to quickly respond to problems which may arise on the buses, at bus stops or bus stations. Sergeant Rachel Cloughton had been appointed to the position in February 2011 and she attended the meeting and gave members an insight into her work. She advised the Committee of the ways in which the partnership was tackling crime and anti-social behaviour.

October Service Changes

The Committee noted the bus service changes outlined in the submitted report which would take place on 29 October 2011. Details were set out in a copy of Metro's Public Transport Changes leaflet which would be circulated to all members in the near future.

Ovenden Bus Services

It was reported that following the development of the former Fountainhead Brewery site, Calderdale Council had secured funding of £180,000 through a section 106 agreement with the developer. This would provide a Monday to Saturday bus service 552 and 553 from 31 October 2011 and would serve Fountainhead Village to Halifax rail station. It was reported that there could

be problems with the turning area for the new service and Calderdale MC would investigate the layout at the site.

MetroLocal

Members welcomed the new Service 258 which was introduced in August 2011 and particularly the link it provided to Elland Health Centre. It was noted that the service was subsidised and its usage would be monitored. The supermarkets served by the service had previously been approached for a contribution towards the cost and Metro would contact them again. Comment was made that the service should be supporting the town centre shops rather than the supermarkets. It was reported that there were some timing issues with the service and Metro would review the timetable. It was noted that 'Hail and Ride' was available on parts of the route and Metro would investigate the inclusion of the service on road side displays. Members were thanked for their feedback.

On Street Parking Issues

The Committee discussed on street car parking in some residential areas of Calderdale. It was acknowledged that many houses did not have driveways and parked cars were causing access problems for bus services. It was noted that there may be some areas where consideration should be given to enforceable parking restrictions and Metro and Calderdale MC would investigate the 'hot spots'.

Car Park Extensions

The Committee was advised that the bid to a rail industry fund to expand the car parks at Crossflatts, Todmorden and Sowerby Bridge rail stations had been successful and the improvements would be carried out over the next two years. A second bid was currently being prepared with Northern Rail to extend the car parks at Mirfield, Pontefract Monkhill and New Pudsey rail stations. A decision on the second bid should be made in October 2011.

Additional Rail Carriages

It was reported that six diesel carriages and 20 electric train carriages which would provide additional capacity on West Yorkshire's rail network would be introduced from December 2011. The diesel carriages would be used on services from Halifax and Harrogate to Leeds and journeys between Leeds and Sheffield, Huddersfield and York. The additional electric trains would provide more peak time capacity between Doncaster, Wakefield, Leeds, Bradford, Ilkley and Skipton.

Caldervale Line Study

The Committee was updated on the findings of a study that was being carried out into the feasibility and business case for improving the rail service on the Caldervale Line.

It was reported that in order to progress the proposals for a standard pattern timetable with a more distinctive split between local, semi-fast and fast services, a strong economic case needed to be made to secure funding. The work would feed into the DfT's rail planning and funding process and would assist Metro's input into the specification of the next northern rail franchise. The study would be completed in January 2012.

Concessionary Rail Fares Increase

It was reported that the 50p concessionary rail fare would increase to half fare from 2 January 2012.

Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) React System

Members were advised of the React talking sign system that triggers audible announcements by an electronic key fob. The system allows the blind and visually impaired to hear announcements at bus stops fitted with the React enabled real time units and there were also audio units at Leeds rail station entrances. In order to raise awareness of the system, Metro would be providing briefing information to key local organisations such as social services, access officers and relevant community groups.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

10. CONSULTATION ITEM – INFORMATION STRATEGY

Members were given a presentation on Metro's Information Strategy which was being developed as part of the third Local Transport Plan.

At the PCC meetings held in April 2011, members had participated in a Qwizdom interactive voting session. It was noted that Metro was continuing to consult on a revised and updated Information Strategy and members were asked to consider the importance of Metro providing information for other modes such as cycling, walking and motoring.

Members supported the provision of information for cycling, walking and motoring/taxis and made the following comments:

- Identify walking routes to/from and rail stations and key town centre stops.
- Identify safe cycling routes.
- Advertise cycle storage, which must be secure.
- Members considered it important to provide taxi information for rail passengers, especially those arriving at unmanned stations with no taxi ranks.
- With regard to taxis, comment was made that it was often cheaper for two people to share a taxi than travel by bus.
- Promoting car clubs was considered a good idea because it gave non-car owners the option of using a car when necessary.

- Road side display content and presentation could be improved.
- Bus stops should display information for all the services that use it, including all destinations.
- Realtime displays should be accurate; sometimes the information differs with that given by texting yournextbus.
- Audio/visual announcements on all buses.
- Maps at bus stops to show area/location (as in London).

It was proposed to arrange a joint meeting with all the Passenger Consultative Committees before the end of the year and members were asked to forward any further comments to Metro on the questionnaire provided at the meeting or by email to: erica.ward@wypte.gov.uk.

RESOLVED – That members' feedback be noted.