

WEST YORKSHIRE INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AUTHORITY / DISTRICT COUNCILS

AT A MEETING OF THE CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE LIAISON GROUP
HELD AT WELLINGTON HOUSE ON
TUESDAY 10 MARCH 2009

PRESENT: Councillor G Hyde (Chair)

Councillors T Brice	-	WYITA
J Jarosz	-	WYITA
P Wadsworth	-	WYITA
Z Ali	-	Bradford MC
A Denham	-	Kirklees MC
S Bentley	-	Leeds CC
S Balfour	-	Wakefield MDC

Officers in Attendance:

A Sadler	-	Wakefield MDC
N Holt	-	Metro
A Pilling	-	Metro
R Chaplin	-	WYITA

11. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A Carter (WYITA), Councillor S Khan (WYITA), Norman Parker (Bradford) and Paula Oldroyd (Calderdale).

12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no personal or prejudicial interests declared by members at the meeting.

13. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2008 be approved.

14. YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONCESSIONS

The Liaison Group was given a presentation on the progress made in relation to a study being carried out by JMP Consultants on concessionary travel for young people in West Yorkshire.

It was reported that a report was being prepared on the initial findings from Phase 1 of the study. This had indicated that cost was a key barrier for young

people using public transport which was compounded by complex ticketing arrangements. Members were advised that although public transport was widely promoted through the SAFEMark Award Scheme in primary and secondary schools, there was a need to increase awareness to older age groups regarding the Student MetroCard. Comment was made that Student MetroCards should be easy to obtain and available to buy at colleges. It was suggested that colleges be asked to assist in publicising their availability and Student Unions be contacted to see if they would be prepared to sell and promote the tickets in return for commission payments.

It was noted that during the next phase of the study further work would be carried out on scenario testing and the benefits of introducing free or reduced rate travel for young people in West Yorkshire. Further consultations would also be held with young people and children's services representatives.

RESOLVED - That progress with the Young People's Concessions Study be noted

15. YOUNG PEOPLE'S STRATEGY

The Liaison Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive which provided an update on delivery of the Young People's Strategy.

It was reported that a 'Youth PTA' had been established with representatives from the five West Yorkshire Youth Councils/Parliaments. Two meetings had been held and although attendance had been difficult to organise, the meetings had been positive and provided valuable feedback on the work regarding free travel and other policy areas. It was proposed to organise a daytime conference during the Summer to allow for a wider attendance from interested parties.

Members noted progress in delivering the Strategy which was detailed in Appendix 1 to the submitted report. It was noted that operators had agreed to repeat last year's 'Get Around for a Pound' summer promotion during August 2009 for holders of half fare passes. This was to be renamed 'Metro-Active' and would be linked to free and cheap activities for children.

The Liaison Group discussed the re-tendering of the Mybus services and the proposals for extending its use to include additional primary services, recreational trips, after school activities and age 14-19 inter-site travel. It was proposed to arrange a meeting with the relevant officers from each authority to discuss the delivery of Mybus services to meet the needs of the extended curriculum and members were asked to provide Metro with a contact name if possible.

RESOLVED - That progress in delivering the Strategy be noted.

16. SCHOOL BUS ISSUES

The Liaison Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive which reported on the school tender timetable, requests for changes to the timings of the school day and Agency Agreements

School Tender Timetable

It was reported that the duration of the Tender Programme had been extended to accommodate the renewal of Phase 1 contracts for the operation of Mybus services. A copy of the School Tender Programme was attached at Appendix 1 to the submitted report and the results of the 2009 tendering exercise would be reported to the next meeting.

Changes to Timing of the School Day

It was reported that requests for changes had been received from a number of schools. One had been received from Cardinal Heenan High School in the Leeds district which would result in an increase in the number of vehicles required. This would have cost implications which would have to be met by the school and their Governors were therefore reconsidering the matter.

Agency Agreements

The Liaison Group were advised that revised agreements with each of the four Agency LEAs were close to being finalised and should be fully implemented from 1 April 2009.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

17. MYBUS ISSUES

The Liaison Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on further activity following the completion of the Mybus yellow bus major scheme.

It was reported that through an innovative partnership with Transdev (Keighley & District) it had been possible to expand the number of yellow bus services at Ilkley Grammar School and the surrounding area. Transdev had supplied 11 low floor vehicles with a further 6 planned for introduction after Easter 2009. Metro had funded the refitting of the vehicles to Mybus standards and Transdev had provided dedicated CRB checked drivers.

Members were advised that the services introduced in Phase 1 of the scheme were being retendered and a new operator would be in place by September 2009. It was intended that all yellow bus services would be retendered next year with a phased implementation between September 2010 and September 2012. This would allow operators to tender for all the

services or just a small number and it was hoped that this would maximise competition and overall value for money.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

18. THE SAFEMARK AWARDS SCHEME PROGRESS REPORT

The Liaison Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on progress with the SAFEMark Award scheme and the work of the Metro Communications Team.

Members noted the progress of the schools currently participating in the scheme and that 26 West Yorkshire schools had been awarded SAFEMark with a further 5 projected to achieve the award by the end of March 2009.

It was reported that a review of SAFEMark had identified a number of schools who had enrolled some years ago but had only achieved limited progress. Due to the fact that the data previously collected was no longer robust, it would be necessary for the schools to recommence the SAFEMark process.

With regard to Junior SAFEMark, it was reported that workshops would be held in two week blocks throughout the academic year rather than during the summer term. This would allow the SAFEMark team to deliver an increase in events which would allow the number of pupils receiving the SAFEMark message by approximately 40%.

It was reported that the generationM website continued to attract new users and links had been made with Breeze – Leeds City Council's Young Persons website including links to Metro's Journey Planner. This would allow youngsters to plan their activities and journey in one place. The possibility of creating links with similar websites in the other four districts was also being investigated. In order to promote the website further, it was suggested that the GenerationM website be advertised on the back of bus tickets and consideration be given to awarding MetroCards as prizes in competitions.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

19. EDUCATION TRANSPORT MONITORING – PROGRESS REPORT

The Liaison Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive which provided an update on progress made in relation to the monitoring of school bus, Mybus and taxi services. Members were also briefed on progress with the Electronic Data Capture project for monitoring services.

Members noted the summary of monitoring activity which had taken place between September and December 2008. As a result of the monitoring and associated partnership work with VOSA and district licensing authorities, four Formal Warning Investigations had been instigated.

With regard to the Electronic Data Capture project, it was noted that software issues had delayed the implementation programme. It was expected that the pilot phase would now be completed by the end of the current academic year allowing the system to be used in full from September 2009.

It was reported that work was progressing on the expansion of the penalty point regime to include other school bus and taxi services and a report would be prepared for the next meeting of the Group.

RESOLVED -

- (a)** That the progress of Metro's monitoring team be noted.
- (b)** That a progress report on the development of the penalty points system be prepared for the next meeting.