

WEST YORKSHIRE INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AUTHORITY
AT A MEETING OF THE CALDERDALE PASSENGER CONSULTATIVE
COMMITTEE HELD IN THE TOWN HALL, HALIFAX
ON TUESDAY 5 APRIL 2011

PRESENT: Councillor R Pearson (Chair)

PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES

Myra James
Peter Melling
John Sheppard
John Sykes
John Whiteley

Also in attendance:

D Brookes	-	CentreBus
T Singh	-	CentreBus
R Harris	-	First
N Walsh	-	Halifax Bus Co
D Haley	-	Northern
P Stubbs	-	Calderdale MC

13. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor K Watson and public representative Peter Stocks.

14. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2011 be noted.

15. MEMBER FEEDBACK

The Committee considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive advising members of the feedback received at the meeting held on 11 January 2011 and to report the action taken.

Members were thanked for their input into the development of LTP3 which had been approved by the ITA and published on 1 April 2011. Copies of the

full Plan were available on the LTP website and an Executive Summary was being prepared and would be circulated to members.

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 Calderdale District.

Bus Service Changes

The Committee discussed the bus service changes taking place in April 2011 which were outlined in the submitted report and welcomed the new peak time service X8 and off peak service X80. First were aware of delays at peak times to service X8 and advised the Committee that they were using the information from the 'Yournextbus' satellite tracking of the service to hopefully find a solution. Details of all the changes were set out in Metro's Public Transport Changes leaflet which had been circulated to members.

Easter and Bank Holiday Services

The Committee noted the effect on bus and rail services to be provided during the Easter and May Day Bank Holiday weekends. Details were included in the Public Transport Changes leaflet and on Metro's website.

Hebden Bridge and Todmorden Minibus Networks

It was reported that Tyrer Bus had given notice to terminate the contract for the operation of the tendered minibus networks in Hebden Bridge and Todmorden. Tenders had been invited and members would be updated on the service at the next meeting.

Punctuality Improvement Partnerships

The Committee was updated on the projects being undertaken to assist buses to become more reliable which included traffic light and bus priority measures. It was noted that buses were having problems with traffic flows at King Cross, Halifax and Metro would discuss the matter further with Calderdale Council as plans were being developed to revise the current road layout and bus stopping arrangements.

Smartcard

Members were updated on progress with the development of the Smartcard scheme. It was noted that a number of bus operators had committed to installing the smart ticket machines which would allow for a gradual roll-out of smartcards over the next 2 years.

Local Sustainable Transport Fund

It was proposed that a bid would be submitted to the Department for Transport for additional funding from the Local Sustainable Transport Fund. This fund was seeking to facilitate economic development and to reduce carbon emissions. Metro was co-ordinating the development of a single bid from the West Yorkshire Authorities, with input from District partners. The approach for the West Yorkshire bid would be likely to improve access to main employment sites and town centres using sustainable modes – walking, cycling and public transport.

Halifax Rail Station

Members were updated on the additional improvements to be carried out at Halifax Rail Station through the National Stations Improvement Programme (NSIP) which were outlined in the submitted report. It was reported that Northern Rail was currently pursuing a retailer to occupy the retail area opposite the ticket office and it was hoped that this would become a café and seating area later in the Summer.

Additional Rail Carriages

Members were advised that Northern Rail were in detailed negotiations with the Department for Transport regarding the provision of additional rail carriages to alleviate overcrowding in West Yorkshire. Further details would be reported to future meetings of the Committee once the outcome of the negotiations was known.

Centrebus

John Sykes advised the Committee of the actions taken by Centrebus when Service 343 broke down in Greetland. Mr Sykes had recently been discharged from hospital when the incident occurred and the driver arranged for a car to collect him and take him home. He asked the representatives from Centrebus to pass on his thanks to those concerned.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

17. CONSULTATION ITEM – METRO'S INFORMATION STRATEGY

Members were advised that local transport authorities had a duty to consult with local user representatives, bus operators, local stakeholders and the Traffic Commissioner about the provision of information including routes, timetabling, fares, facilities for disabled passengers and connections with other public transport services. An Information Strategy was being developed for the next three years and consultation with the PCCs and community groups, including those with disabilities and visual impairments, would be a key component.

The Committee was given a presentation and it was reported that the Local Transport Plan 3 contained elements of additional activities to enhance information that could be developed over the next 3 years. It was noted that much of the current strategy was still relevant but it was important that it reflected the changing needs of all sectors of the community.

Members took part in an interactive Quizdom questionnaire. They were asked a number of questions and their responses were captured. An immediate indication of their opinions was given on the important elements of the strategy and information provision as well as any key areas for development.

The Committee identified the importance of the 'yournextbus' real time system in providing information and sought assurance that operators and Metro were actively working to enhance the proportion of journeys for which real time was available. Representatives from Metro and First explained the steps being taken to improve the system and encouraged members to report any anomalies they observed to Metro for investigation and action.

Members were thanked for their participation in the Quizdom survey and were advised that all the information gathered would be fed into the draft Information Strategy. They 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 – That members' feedback be noted.