

# AGENDA ITEM NO: 9(e)

## WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

### AT A MEETING OF THE WAKEFIELD PASSENGER CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE HELD AT COUNTY HALL, WAKEFIELD ON THURSDAY 24 JULY 2008

**PRESENT:** Councillor G Phelps (Chair)

#### WYPTA

K Rhodes  
M Walker

#### PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES

Pauline Blackburn  
John Churms  
Michael Dalton  
Barbara Darlison  
Derek Farren  
Brenda Fruish  
Dennis Pattinson

#### Also in attendance:-

I Appleyard - Arriva Yorkshire  
G Cooper - Arriva Yorkshire  
D Haley - Northern Rail  
J Ward - Wakefield MDC

#### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E Harrison, D Hopkins and B Smith and public representative K Barkley.

#### 2. MINUTES

**RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 April 2008 be approved.

#### 3. MEMBER FEEDBACK

The Committee considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive advising members of the feedback received at the meeting of the committee held on action taken.

#### New Rail Station Prioritisation

The Committee were advised that Crigglestone had been included on the list of potential sites for new rail station prioritisation.

Members were reminded that individual detailed matters could be raised with Metro officers and the operators at the end of the meeting.

#### **4. INFORMATION REPORT**

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

##### **MetroCard Prices**

It was reported that the Metro range of prepaid tickets would increase by approximately 8% from 20 July 2008 and details of the new prices were attached at Appendix A to the submitted report. Members were advised that whilst the MetroCard scheme was administered by Metro, the prices were set by the bus and train operators.

##### **Bus Station Real Time Displays**

It was noted that bus station displays at Batley, Cleckheaton and Ossett were connected to the YourNextBus real time system. Subject to the satisfactory testing of a software enhancement for the older displays, it was planned to roll out the provision of real time information to other main bus stations by the end of the year.

##### **'Kids for a Quid' Offer**

Members were advised that Metro were developing a Young People's Strategy and, as part of it, operators had agreed to implement a 'Kids for a Quid' promotion throughout August. The offer would be available to children under 11 years old accompanied by an adult, or any child of 11 and over in possession of a half fare pass.

##### **City Region MetroCard (Zone 6)**

It was noted that there was a high level of commitment amongst the City Region Leaders and Metro to introduce a new MetroCard which would cover the City Region area. Proposals were being developed to introduce a new ticket that would extend MetroCard validity across the City Region area and several options were being developed. The new product was being developed on the basis that it would be revenue neutral to operators, Metro and other City Region Local Authorities.

##### **Leeds Station Automated Ticket Barrier**

It was reported that Northern was continuing the development of proposals to install automatic ticket gates at Leeds rail station which were due to be completed in October 2008.

Members were informed that part of the work will include 5 small ticket offices located throughout the station for those passengers who were unable to purchase tickets on the journey to Leeds.

### **Day Tripper Services**

Members were advised of the seasonal Day Tripper services which would be subsidised by Metro and run from 21 July 2008 to the August bank holiday weekend. The services would provide the opportunity for days out at popular West Yorkshire tourist attractions including Temple Newsam, Lotherton Hall, Fairburn Ings, National Coal Mining Museum and Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Cannon Hall, Bagshaw Museum, Red House Museum and Oakwell Hall.

### **Concessionary Travel Update**

It was reported that over 310,000 new English National Concessionary Scheme passes had now been issued in West Yorkshire.

A publicity campaign was planned for August to remind people who had not already applied of the need to obtain a new pass by the end of September so that they continue to receive free travel.

### **South Yorkshire Motors**

The Committee were informed that South Yorkshire Motors of Pontefract had ceased trading. It was stated that, although many of their routes were served by other operators, some parts of Knottingley and South Pontefract would be affected. Discussions were ongoing with other operators in the area to consider if they were prepared to cover the gaps in the network on a commercial basis.

### **Gateway School**

The Committee welcomed Metro and Wakefield Council's bid submission to fund a bus priority and 300 space park and ride scheme to the north of Wakefield providing regular bus services into the city. It was commented that the scheme supported Wakefield's parking strategy of reducing long stay parking out of the city centre whilst encouraging commuter growth by bus. It would benefit the 110 service by reducing bus journey times and making services more reliable.

### **Hemsworth Bus Station**

It was reported that although Hemsworth Bus Station was opened on 10 June 2008, only four of the five 'drive-in reverse-out' stands were in use. Other works including the covered waiting area, CCTV and realtime information were also yet to be provided. It was hoped that these works would be

completed on 8 September 2008 to coincide with the opening of the adjacent new Tesco supermarket.

### **Wakefield Kirkgate**

The Committee were informed that Network Rail was in discussions with other stakeholders, including Metro, regarding the development of the station which now included the old station depot. The PCC expressed their disappointment that, despite extensive lobbying, the station had not been included in the National Station Improvement Programme. Officers stressed that they would press for its future inclusion.

## **5. CONSULTATION ITEMS -**

- (a) Access to Hospitals**
- (b) Cross Boundary Bus Services**
- (c) Realtime Displays – Demonstration**
- (d) Fuel Prices and Transport**
- (e) Wakefield City Centre Bus Movements Study**

### **Access to Hospitals**

The Committee were given a short presentation on the access to hospitals and health services project which had been identified as a priority for action in the Local Transport Plan Accessibility Strategy.

It was reported that Metro had employed two students on summer work placement to undertake an audit of hospital sites in each district. The aim of the audits was to gather information on public transport and physical accessibility issues to inform shared actions for delivery by the hospitals, Metro and districts.

Members' feedback on access to hospitals was sought and comment was made that the public would prefer direct links from their home to health services if possible. It was pointed out that many doctors were relocating onto new estates which did not have access to direct bus services. It was reported that Metro had provided some services to hospitals on a 'use it or lose it' basis. However, the need to advertise and publicise these services was stressed in order for them to be able to continue. In this respect comment was made about the lack of information in Wakefield bus station to advise passengers of the best way to get to Pinderfields and Pontefract Hospitals. Comment was made that the Wakefield FreeCityBus should stop at Pinderfields. It was suggested that hospital and health centres could assist by putting service information on their own publicity and appointment letters. Comment was made that access to GP surgeries on the 'use it or lost it' services was sometimes a problem because they did not always operate during the surgery's opening hours.

## **Cross Boundary Bus Services**

It was reported that PCC members had requested a discussion on cross-boundary bus services and destinations served and not-so-well served. Comment was made that people wanted to travel cross boundary with one ticket. It was reported that Metro had joint ticketing arrangements with South Yorkshire and discussions were being held with bus and rail operators regarding the extension of MetroCard to out of county areas such as Barnsley, Manchester and Sheffield.

## **Realtime Displays - Demonstration**

The Committee were advised that Metro was developing a new form of realtime display which combined the information from a number of individual stops on one screen. The screens could be used in the foyers of shopping centres, hospitals and other large, well used buildings to provide information on services which were leaving from the vicinity of that location. Members were given a short presentation and demonstration and their views were sought on where the new service could be rolled out. The Committee welcomed the realtime system but were concerned that few realtime displays had been erected in the more remote/rural areas. Use of these stops did not justify the provision of realtime displays and it was noted that information could be obtained from the text messaging service to mobile phones. It was suggested that more screens should be provided at large interchanges and bus stations and busy stops such as those outside the Ridings Centre.

## **Fuel Prices and Transport**

It was recognised that fuel prices had increased significantly over the last year and that this could have significant short and long term implications on transport supply and demand.

Members' views were sought on public reaction to this situation and how people could be encouraged to make more use of public transport, cycling and walking.

Comment was made that people would continue to use their cars because bus services were unreliable and there was no attractive alternative, particularly evening and weekend services. The Committee stressed the need for a high quality infrastructure systems and in particular dedicated bus lanes/corridors.

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

### **Wakefield City Centre Bus Movements Study**

The Committee were given a presentation by Mr J Rich from WSP Consultants who had undertaken a study commissioned by Wakefield Council into how buses circulated.

It was explained that the work was being undertaken to help and inform how the ongoing regeneration and public realm worked in the city centre should accommodate bus movements and how the network might need to evolve in the light of the changes to Wakefield city centre.

Members were given the opportunity to comment on the six options which had been presented to them.

**RESOLVED** - That PCC members' comments and views be noted.