

AGENDA ITEM No: 19

WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

**AT A MEETING OF THE BRADFORD PASSENGER CONSULTATIVE
COMMITTEE HELD AT CITY HALL, BRADFORD ON
FRIDAY 20 JANUARY 2006**

PRESENT: Councillor C Greaves (Chair)

WYPTA

K Hussain
S Khan
J S King
J Prestage
A Wallace

PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES

John Allison	Geoff Reid
Michael Chappell	Keith Renshaw
David Charlesworth	Andrew Wowk
Andrew Jewsbury	Sean Morris-Armitage
Graham Peacock	

Also in Attendance:

I Appleyard	-	Arriva Yorkshire
K Hussain	-	First Bradford
G Lomax	-	Keighley & District Travel
D Haley	-	Northern

8. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M Palmer of Bradford MDC and public representatives Mrs L Borrill, Ms L Eastwood, Mrs A M Edwardes, Mr M Tarran and Mr C Walters.

9. MINUTES

Further to Minute 6, Ilkley Rail Station, it was noted that the issues at the station concerning the guttering and access arrangements were still ongoing and that a progress report would be brought to a future meeting.

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 October 2005 be approved.

10. MEMBER FEEDBACK REPORT

The Committee considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive advising members of feedback received at the meeting held on 14 October 2005 and to report the action taken. In this respect, it was noted that all of the

feedback issues raised by members at the last meeting had been dealt with/resolved at that time.

Public representative, Mr D Charlesworth, expressed his concern regarding the litterbin in the toilets at Bradford Interchange and how it did not appear to be subject to security precautions. Metro officers agreed to investigate his concerns, with a view to providing him with feedback directly.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

11. INFORMATION REPORT

The Committee considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on issues relating to the Bradford district.

Bus Companies – Changes of Ownership

Members were advised that Stagecoach Group plc had acquired the Traction Group Ltd, which was the parent company of Yorkshire Traction and the Blazefield Group (which included Keighley & District Travel, Harrogate & District Travel and Yorkshire Coastliner) had been sold to Transdev. The Committee expressed their appreciation to the Blazefield Group for being an outstanding company and for their excellent service provision.

Realtime - YourNextBus

It was noted that the system had proven extremely popular with 2,000 texts being received a day, with the number of users increasing daily. Feedback from customers using the system had been very positive and all PCC members had been invited to attend a demonstration of the Realtime system at Wellington House, Leeds on 2 February 2006. Members noted that work to install electronic realtime signs in bus shelters was ongoing.

Free Travel Concessions Update

Members were advised that with effect from April 2006, free travel would be provided for men and women over 60 and certain categories of disabled people. The concessions would apply between 0930 and 2300 hours, but would apply to bus journeys only within the West Yorkshire region. However, it was noted that the PTA would be considering arrangements for rail and cross-boundary journeys as part of its budgeting process for 2006/7.

CCTV on Buses Initiative

It was reported that 333 vehicles in West Yorkshire had been equipped with CCTV and a further 168 buses would be provided with the equipment in the third phase of the initiative.

LTP Settlement

The Committee were advised of the positive feedback received from the Department of Transport on the progress made in delivering the first Plan during 2004/5 and it was reported that the LTP partnership had been awarded a 5% funding bonus for 2006/7 based on a 'good score' for the progress made.

MyBus

It was noted that Phase 2 of the MyBus scheme was planned for implementation during 2006 and the Department for Transport had recently approved funding for Phase 3. Members were also informed that a number of new low floor buses had been launched at the Bingley phase of the scheme at the beginning of January 2006. Councillor Prestage reminded the Committee that the MyBus vehicles could also be used by voluntary groups when not in school use and urged Members to contact Metro should they be aware of any groups who may require their use.

Rail Information at Stations

It was reported that Metro would be contributing to a scheme that would replace the information control systems for the existing long line public address announcements and passenger information screen displays at rail stations. Northern's programme for implementing the new system was due for completion in Spring 2006. It was hoped that the system would be rolled out to more stations in due course. The Northern Rail representative agreed to investigate comments about the problems with the public address announcements and shelter repairs at Frizinghall Station.

Shelter Refurbishment

The Committee was advised that the shelter refurbishment programme to improve the standard of shelter provision and bus stops/plates across West Yorkshire had commenced during Summer 2005 and was due for completion by March 2007. It was reported that positive feedback received from passengers and bus operators confirmed they were very satisfied with the quality of the facilities.

ShIPLEY Rail Station

It was reported that Metro continued to contribute funds towards the refurbishment of vacant office accommodation within the station, which would provide a permanent base for British Transport Police Officers (BTP). The police station would provide a local base for officers and the rapid response vehicle and also improve the security and safety of passengers using the rail station. In this respect, Northern had scheduled completion of the work for the end of March 2006. Members were informed that a future initiative to fund the installation of additional CCTV cameras to the subways in the station was also planned.

Low Moor

Members were advised that consultants had been working with Northern and Network Rail to achieve an alternative timetable to enable a stop to be introduced at the station without detriment to train/timetable performance. An initial draft report from the consultants had been received in December 2005 and Metro was currently considering the practicalities of their findings.

Keighley Rail Station

It was reported that Metro, Keighley College and Bradford MDC had jointly prepared a Masterplan to create an additional 60 car parking spaces at a site on Dalton Lane, which was adjacent to Keighley rail station. In this respect, Keighley College intended to submit a detailed planning application for their development and Metro's proposed rail users car park in the near future.

MetroConnect - Little Horton

The Committee was advised that following requests from passengers the MetroConnect timetable had been revised to include additional trips to the Euroway Employment area in South Bradford and to extend the Saturday service to ASDA at Bierley. The changes would commence from the end of January 2006.

Wharfe Valley Bus Services

It was reported that following the launch in October 2005 positive comments had been received from passengers regarding MetroConnect services operating in the Otley and Ilkley areas. It was noted that the services had improved connections to supermarkets at Otley and Ilkley, as well as provided a peak service from parts of Ilkley to the rail station.

Orange Line - Kickstart

Members were informed that a joint bid to the Department of Transport Kickstart scheme by Metro and First to extend the 636/637 Orange Line service to the new Morrisons HQ on Gain Lane had been successful. A frequent service to and from the city centre would be provided for employees at the site, thus reducing car travel. It was hoped the new service would be launched in conjunction with the April bus service changes. Members requested confirmation that Morrisons was contributing to the initiative. It was confirmed that Morrisons would be providing passenger facilities and a turning area for the bus within the site and would be contributing to marketing and promotion of the services. Members requested a progress report be brought to the next meeting of the Committee.

Issues raised by PCC Member (Andrew Wowk)

Mr Wowk was concerned about the condition of the boundary wall and the flooding of the subway connecting platforms 3 and 4 at Shipley rail station and bus connections in Denholme for through travel between Keighley and Halifax. In response, it was stated that Northern Rail was investigating the issues

regarding Shipley station. Metro gave assurances that the reported problems with bus connections in Denholme would be investigated.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

12. ISSUES RAISED BY PCC MEMBER (MRS A M EDWARDES)

Mrs Edwardes was concerned about overcrowding on rail services on the Airedale line. She reported that the 1720 hours and 1826 hours services were extremely overcrowded. Mr Haley from Northern responded that the 4 coach rolling stock currently serving the Airedale line was the largest capacity provided by Northern in line with the franchise agreement. Mr Haley stated that he would contact Mrs Edwardes to discuss and investigate her concerns.

RESOLVED - That Northern contact Mrs Edwardes to discuss and investigate her concerns.

13. PRESS ARTICLE: DISABLED GIRL LEFT ON BUS FOR 7 HOURS

Members expressed their serious concerns regarding an article that had been published in the press in which a severely disabled 18 year old girl on her way to Chapel Grange Special School, had been left on a school minibus for nearly 7 hours. Discussions ensued on the issue and how a repeat of this incident could be prevented in the future.

Members requested that officers contact Education Bradford and the operator to express their serious concerns and to reinforce procedures to avoid this type of incident recurring in the future.

**14. CONSULTATION ITEMS:
(a) LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 2
(b) REAL TIME INFORMATION DISPLAYS**

The Committee considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the 2nd West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan accessibility planning and locations for real time information displays.

Local Transport Plan 2 – Accessibility Planning

Members were given a short presentation on the Accessibility Strategy, which would form part of the Local Transport Plan 2. Consideration was given to the accessibility planning for the Wakefield area and it was noted that an action plan was being developed through consultation with local stakeholders and service providers.

The Accessibility Strategy highlighted a number of issues and actions as priorities for the coming year, which included access to health services, employment and education. A questionnaire was circulated at the meeting and members' feedback and views were sought.

Public representative, Mr M Chappell, pointed out inaccuracies in transport information recently published by Health Trusts and stressed the need for organisations to work with Metro to give consistent information to passengers.

Real Time Information Displays

The Committee were advised that Metro were to install realtime information displays at 800 bus stops across West Yorkshire and members were shown an example of the larger type of display to be installed at the busiest bus stops. Members were asked to complete the questionnaire circulated at the meeting to provide Metro with any suggestions or comments regarding the locations for the displays.

Members welcomed this initiative and noted that the displays would be voice activated for blind/partially-sighted people.

RESOLVED - That PCC members' comments and views be sought.