

WEST YORKSHIRE INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

AT A MEETING OF THE CALDERDALE PASSENGER CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, HALIFAX ON TUESDAY 30 MARCH 2010

PRESENT: Councillor K Watson (Chair)

WYITA

R Pearson

PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES

Jim Calland
Peter Melling
John Sheppard

John Sykes
Peter Stocks
John Whiteley

CALDERDALE MC

G Carter
R Thornber

Also in attendance:

D Brookes - Centrebus

20. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Drew Haley of Northern Rail and public representative Hannah Dobson.

21. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2010 be approved.

22. MEMBER FEEDBACK REPORT

The Committee considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive advising them of the feedback received at the meeting of the Committee held on 12 January 2010 and to report the action taken.

Members were advised that a special joint PCC meeting to discuss the Local Transport Plan 3 and realtime system had been arranged for 15 April 2010 where members would be given an opportunity for more in depth consultation.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

23. 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 - April 2010

The Committee was updated on the forthcoming service changes scheduled for 24, 25 and 26 April 2010. A copy of the Changing Times leaflet giving full details of the changes would be sent to members in the near future. Concern was expressed that service 508 was undergoing further changes and that earlier amendments to the service had resulted in some commuters opting to drive to Leeds rather than using public transport to get to work.

Tendered Bus Services In Rural South Calderdale

Members were advised that Centrebus had commenced operation of a new network of tendered bus services in the area. The company had also invested in a new fleet of vehicles and a new depot in Elland.

It was noted that further modifications would be made to the services in the July service changes. It was requested that information be provided on any proposed changes before they were registered and it was agreed that a meeting should be arranged with Calderdale members in mid May to communicate planned modifications before the registration date at the end of May 2010. It was noted that the locally produced Ryburn Valley timetable would require updating after the July changes and Metro confirmed they would fund production of the revised leaflet.

The Committee discussed the provision of bus connections to Oldham and it was confirmed that the matter could not be progressed without additional third party funding to cover the cost of the service. Councillor Carter agreed to raise the matter at the next Rochdale Canal Partnership meeting.

Halifax FreeTownBus

The Committee was advised that Calderdale's Cross Party Economic Task Force was scheduled to meet at the end of March 2010 in order to finalise their aspirations in terms of funding and routing of the service. It was suggested that the route of the proposed service should serve retail outlets on the periphery of the town centre.

Brighouse Bus Station

It was noted that work was ongoing to facilitate links from audio buttons in the station to the real time audio system. Members requested that tactile floor surfaces be provided in the station, similar to those used at Halifax. Comment was made that the E8 bus service often had a few minutes layover time at the bus station and it was requested that consideration be given to using this time to extend the service to the rail station. Additionally, problems had been experienced at Stand C, with service 549 arriving early and preventing service 570/571 departing from the stand.

Kickstart

It was reported that the Kickstart bid for a community bus service in Brighouse in partnership with Calderdale CT had unfortunately been unsuccessful. Alternative options to pursue this initiative were currently being investigated.

Halifax Rail Station Improvements

The Committee was advised that a second phase of works to provide significantly improved passenger waiting facilities, retail facility, customer information screens and public address system would commence in late spring 2010. Concern was expressed that the station could be without a retail facility for a lengthy period of time.

East Coast "Eureka" Timetable

Members were advised that a standard hour 'clockface' timetable would be introduced on the East Coast Main Line from May 2011. Trains would arrive and depart Leeds at the same time every hour and journeys between Leeds and London would be reduced by 11 minutes. Concern was expressed that the 'Eureka' branding could cause confusion with the Eureka children's museum and Councillor Watson agreed to raise the matter with East Coast.

Grand Central Trains – New Bradford – London Rail Service

The Committee noted the details of the new 'West Riding' service which would be operated by Grand Central between Bradford and London from 23 May 2010.

Urban Challenge Fund

It was noted that the Department for Transport had announced their intention to create an 'Urban Challenge Fund' (UCF) to replace the Transport Innovation Fund (TIF), Sustainable Cities Fund and potentially the Urban Congestion Fund. It was anticipated that Metro would make a joint response to the DfT's discussion paper on behalf of City Region Partners and co-ordinate the submission of a bid. Concern was expressed that the fund would exclude rural areas.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

24. **CONSULTATION ITEMS -**
- (a) Review of the last term of PCC Meetings**
 - (b) Integrated Ticketing**
 - (c) Disruptions Due to Bad Weather**

Review of the Last Term of PCC Meetings

Members were thanked for their input to the wide range of consultation items considered at PCC meetings during their term of office. They were given a short presentation on the topics that had been covered and were given the opportunity to comment on their experience as a PCC public representative.

The recruitment process for the next 3 year term would commence in the near future and the public representatives would be forwarded an application form in due course. Members queried the need to fill in detailed forms when the ITA already held their information and suggested that a simpler process be considered. They also suggested that unsuccessful applicants be informed why they had not been selected. Comment was also made that women and younger people were under-represented on the Committee.

Members suggested that the opportunity to apply to for membership on the PCCs be widely promoted including the following areas:

- Local press
- Metro newspaper
- Posters in libraries, parish and town council offices
- Job Centres

It was noted that operators did not always attend the meetings and it was suggested that more be done to stress the importance of their attendance.

Integrated Ticketing

It was noted that there was currently a wide range of ticket options available to public transport users and it was recognised that these could be confusing for passengers.

The Committee was advised of the development and roll out of SmartCard ticketing and the options to introduce Quality Contracts which would offer opportunities to develop a more fully integrated ticketing scheme in West Yorkshire. They were given a short presentation and their views were sought on how to take forward a ticketing plan for West Yorkshire.

Members were supportive of the development of integrated ticketing and were keen for this to be introduced as soon as possible. It was agreed that the range of ticket products could be confusing and it was suggested that this had a particular impact on young people. It was considered that more information should be provided to young people on the range of tickets available to assist them in deciding on the best value for money options available.

Disruptions Due to Bad Weather

The Committee was advised that Metro had undertaken a review of how customers had been kept informed of the disruptions to public transport during the recent bad weather. Members were given a presentation and it was noted that an action plan had been developed to take the recommendations of the review forward. Their views on areas for further improvement were sought.

It was noted that communication between operators and Metro was important and concern was expressed that this had not seemed to happen in Brighouse during the inclement weather.

The following suggestions were made:

- Work with highways to co-ordinate gritting routes with bus services where possible.
- Bus operators improve internal co-ordination to ensure a consistent approach to diversionary routes.

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 or by email to erica.ward@wypte.gov.uk.

RESOLVED - That PCC members' feedback and views be noted.