

## **AGENDA ITEM No: 6.**

### **WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY**

#### **AT A MEETING OF THE KIRKLEES PASSENGER CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE HELD IN THE TOWN HALL, DEWSBURY ON WEDNESDAY 5 JULY 2006**

**PRESENT:** Councillor K Hussain (Chair)

#### **WYPTA**

P McBride  
E Smaje  
C Smith

#### **PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES**

John Appleyard	Roger Moore
Don Burslam	Kathleen O'Shea
Sean Flood	Keith Parry
Brian Holroyd	Anne Prince

#### **KIRKLEES MC**

L Wilkinson

#### **Also in attendance:**

D Squire	-	Arriva Yorkshire
D Haley	-	Northern
T Singh	-	Stagecoach Yorkshire
M Madley	-	Stagecoach Yorkshire

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from public representatives Mr Fieldhouse and Mr Pygott and Mr G North (GNER).

### **2. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting of this Committee held on 5 April 2006 be approved

### **3. 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 5 April 2006 and the action taken.

**RESOLVED** - That the report be noted.

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

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

##### **PTA Membership 2006/7**

It was reported that at its Annual Meeting held on 23 June 2006, the PTA had elected Councillor Stanley King as Chairman and Councillor Ryk Downes as Vice Chairman. The District Council Spokesperson for the Kirklees area would be Councillor Karam Hussain.

A PTA Year Book incorporating details of its members and useful contact numbers would be distributed to all PCC members in the near future.

##### **Service Changes**

It was reported that the next major timetable change would occur on 22 July 2006 and copies of Metro's Changing Times leaflet were available at the meeting.

##### **Arriva Service Changes**

The Committee were advised that as a result of representations made to Arriva on behalf of the Committee and members of the public, the Chairman of the PTA had met with senior representatives of Arriva. They had confirmed that unless external factors adversely affected their trading position, no further changes would be made to services in the Kirklees District until January 2007. Arriva advised that a meeting would be arranged with local councillors to explore the best way to consult on future network changes.

Members commented that although punctuality had improved there were still issues on certain services. Concerns regarding bus breakdowns and early running were reported. Arriva asked for specific details in order that the matters could be fully investigated and appropriate action taken.

##### **Day Tripper Services**

Members were advised of the seasonal day tripper services which would be provided from 24 July to 2 September 2006. The services would provide the opportunity for days out at popular West Yorkshire tourist attractions including the National Coal Mining Museum, Bagshaw Museum, Red House Museum, Oakwell Park, Cannon Hall and the Yorkshire Sculpture Park.

##### **Concessionary Fares Scheme**

It was reported that free bus travel arrangements for seniors and people with disabilities would be introduced nationally from 2008. Further details of the scheme will be reported to a future meeting of the Committee.

## **Rail Station Access**

Members were advised of the launch of the Department for Transport's 'Railways for All' initiative which was aimed at improving the accessibility of rail stations over a period of 10 years. The £370 million funding provision was split into two parts, £35 million per year for improving access at the busiest stations and £7 million per year, the majority of which would be available for 'Small Schemes' funding.

It was noted that in addition to the above, a 3 year programme for providing accessible routes at stations had been announced. Huddersfield rail station was included in the programme with the completion of an accessible, step-free route expected by 2009.

## **Real Time Update**

The Committee were updated on the YourNextBus real time information system which was the most used bus real time system in the UK. Members noted that 6 electronic real time information displays would be installed during the summer as part of a trial to assess their technical performance.

## **Yellow Bus**

It was reported that the Yellow Bus initiative had received a 'Working Together' award at the national Public Servants of the Year Awards. Members were advised of progress with the second phase of the project and it was reported that the Department for Transport (DfT) had agreed funding to cover Phase 3.

## **Holme Valley Kickstart Scheme**

The Committee were advised that the bid for Kickstart funding to enhance bus services between the Holme Valley and Huddersfield had been successful. Metro and First developed the project and had worked closely with Kirklees Council. Kickstart was aimed to provide pump priming funding to enable the start up of new services which had strong prospects for ongoing commercial operation.

**RESOLVED** - That the report be noted.

## **5. CONSULTATION ITEMS -**

- (a) Bus Timetable Leaflets**
- (b) Departure Stand Information at Bus Stations**
- (c) Visual Environment at Rail Stations**

Members views were sought on the format of Metro produced bus timetables, the possible replacement of departure stand information at bus stations and improving the visual environment at rail stations. A questionnaire was circulated at the meeting and members were asked to forward their suggestions to Metro.

## Bus Timetable Leaflets

Members were given a presentation on Metro's production of timetable leaflets. It was noted that Metro's Information Strategy stated that there should be a printed timetable leaflet for all bus services. In addition to the comprehensive range of Metro leaflets some operators, such as Arriva and Keighley & District Travel, produced their own.

It was reported that Metro currently produced 3 million printed timetables each year with a further 3 million timetables downloaded from the Internet. The format of the timetable leaflets was being reviewed and members' views were sought on their legibility, content, format and cost implications.

Members considered that the timetables were easy to read and the inclusion of maps provided in all timetables would be beneficial. Comment was made that it would be easier if there was a separate timetable for each service although it was noted that this would increase the production cost and there were some advantages for having composite timetables. Members considered that advertising, including tourist attractions, would be beneficial.

## Departure Stand Information at Bus Stations

It was reported that Metro was considering options for the provision of departure stand information at bus stations. Members were advised that information was currently provided by illuminated signs and fixed signage with service numbers above the departure stands.

Members were shown examples of proposed new electronic signs and displays that could be provided and they welcomed the proposal to install them at departure stands. It was intended that the new displays would have the capacity to provide realtime information in the future although further work was needed in developing suitable software before this could be achieved. Members were supportive of this development.

It was suggested that although there would be cost implications, consideration should be given to providing large screens with travel information in the centre of large cities such as Huddersfield and Leeds. Comment was made that information for both bus and rail should be available at bus and rail stations to assist with interchange.

## Visual Environment at Rail Stations

Members were advised of a recent national report published by the National Audit Office which had highlighted the poor standard of facilities and visual appearance of rail stations across the country.

It was reported that Metro had a programme of improvements set out in the Local Transport Plan 2 and RailPlan 6 documents but members' views were sought for any West Yorkshire stations that would benefit from a more immediate 'face lift' to address issues of poor or run-down appearance.

It was noted that minor improvements could include the pruning of vegetation, new signage, lighting and repainting and members were asked to make suggestions to Metro of any West Yorkshire stations which could benefit from such work.

The Committee were advised that from September 2006, Safety and Security Teams, employed by Northern, would travel on local rail services during the evenings, which it was hoped would make passengers feel more secure.

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