

AGENDA ITEM NO: 17

WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

AT A MEETING OF THE BRADFORD PASSENGER CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE HELD AT CITY HALL, BRADFORD ON FRIDAY 19 JANUARY 2007

PRESENT: Councillor C Greaves (Chair)

WYPTA

S Khan
J S King
M Slater

PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Louie Borrill | Rev Geoff Reid |
| Michael Chappell | Keith Renshaw |
| David Charlesworth | Michael Tarran |
| Andrew Jewsbury | John Thornton |
| Shaun Morris-Armitage | Chris Walters |
| Graham Peacock | Andrew Wowk |

BRADFORD MDC

Councillor J Dodds

Also in Attendance:

| | | |
|-----------|---|----------------------------|
| K Hussain | - | First Bradford |
| A Lonie | - | Keighley & District Travel |
| D Haley | - | Northern |
| M Butt | - | Bradford MDC |

12. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor A Wallace.

13. MINUTES

Further to Minute 9 - Realtime Displays - Mr Chappell reported that his congratulatory comments concerning the installation of solar panel lighting in bus shelters had not been noted. He had requested that his comments be passed to the contractors concerned. The Chair confirmed that the minutes would be amended accordingly.

RESOLVED - That, subject to the above amendment, the minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2006 be approved.

14. 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 13 October 2006.

Members were thanked for their contributions regarding Metro's process for handling feedback on bus/rail service complaints and compliments. It was reported that the suggestions made by Members would be considered in the development of revised procedures currently being pursued.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

15. INFORMATION REPORT

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

January Bus Service Changes

It was reported that the next major timetable change would take place on 27 January 2007. In this respect, the Committee were given a verbal summary of the changes.

Members expressed their concern at the withdrawal of the X33 service. An Arriva spokesperson explained the withdrawal arose due to the poor financial performance of the service, which would be withdrawn from 27 January 2007.

Rail Station Cleaning

It was reported that the standard of cleanliness at rail stations was still of concern. Reasons were the lack of litterbins, which had been removed following the 2005 security alerts, and Northern Rail's cleaning contract arrangements.

Members were advised that further to a recent review of security, litterbins with clear plastic bags were now allowed at minor stations and that stations with the highest litter levels were being prioritised to receive the bins first.

It was reported that Metro had repeatedly raised the issue of station cleaning with Northern Rail who had increased resources and were undertaking a review of the cleaning contract arrangements to remedy current deficiencies.

Awards

The Committee were informed that over the last 12 months Metro had enjoyed a number of important achievements, including winning awards for

‘Outstanding Achievement in Transport Policy and Planning’ and ‘Customer Service Team of the Year’.

LTP Settlement

It was reported that notification had been received from the Government Office in December 2006 that West Yorkshire would receive funding of £27.96 million in 2007/08, rising to £32.657 million in 2010/11. This was based on an assessment of the performance of the 6 partners (Metro plus the five District Councils) during the first LTP period (2001-2006) and the quality of the second LTP.

MyBus Update

It was reported that 59 of the 60 MyBuses in Phase 2 of the project had now been successfully implemented, with the final bus being scheduled to commence operation at Ravenshall School, Kirklees in February 2007.

The Committee were informed that Department for Transport funding to cover Phase 3 of the MyBus project provided for the implementation of a further 60 buses (and 6 spare buses). The tender process for Phase 3 had been split into three batches to encourage competition. Tenders for all three batches had now been awarded to operators and it was anticipated that all of the Phase 3 Mybuses would be in operation by December 2007.

First Appeal against the West Yorkshire Concessionary Travel Scheme

It was reported that First had appealed against the reimbursement arrangements set out in the West Yorkshire Concessionary Travel Scheme and had submitted evidence to the Secretary of State for Transport. In response, Metro had produced a robust rebuttal of all the points raised by First and had requested that the Secretary of State dismiss the appeal. A decision is expected shortly.

It was reported that if First should win the appeal in full there could be serious budgetary implications resulting in possible cuts to tendered services. In this respect, Mr Hussain gave assurances that if First were successful they would meet with the PTA and Metro, with a view to reaching a suitable solution.

2008 Concessionary Travel Scheme Proposals

Members were updated with details regarding the introduction of a national free off-peak travel scheme on buses for people aged over 60 and certain categories of disabled people. It was reported that all concessionary permits would need to be reissued to ensure that bus drivers in any part of the country could verify entitlement. Government advice on the issue of new permits and funding was awaited.

National Policy Initiatives

It was reported that the Local Government White Paper (Strong and Prosperous Communities) had been published on 26 October 2006. Members of the Committee were given a brief summary of the proposals contained within the document.

Transport Innovation Fund

It was reported that the City Region bid for £1.7m of pump-priming funding had been refused by the Department for Transport. The Department for Funding had emphasised that further bids could be made for substantive TIF funding, although this would be difficult without the pump-priming funding. Other possible funding sources were being investigated.

Grand Central

It was reported that Grand Central Railways were proposing to run additional through services from Bradford and Halifax to London via Brighouse and Wakefield. Grand Central were seeking service commencement in December 2007.

Apperley Bridge and Kirkstall Forge Rail Station Proposals

It was reported that discussions were taking place with the developer of the former Kirkstall Forge site with a view to securing funding, by way of a Section 106 agreement, to progress the Apperley Bridge and Kirkstall Forge rail station proposals. Should the funding be secured, the balance of funding required for the two schemes would come from the West Yorkshire LTP, provided that a satisfactory business case could be demonstrated. Subject to signing of the 106 agreement, it was anticipated that work on developing the full business case would commence in early 2007. In view of the extent of work required, the earliest date for their opening would 2010/2011.

Bus Services In The Whafe Valley Area

It was reported that in November 2006, Pegasus, who provided Metro Connect bus services in the Ilkley, Otley and Guiseley areas, went out of business. Metro acted quickly to maintain bus services for the area. In some instances it had not been possible to secure fully accessible buses and Metro continued to work with the new operators to rectify this position.

Bus Services To Leeds Bradford International Airport

The Committee were informed that a new pattern of services had been introduced in late October 2006, with improved journey times between Bradford and the Airport, the restoration of regular bus services to Apperley Bridge and new links between Yeadon and the Eccleshill Health Centre.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

16. **CONSULTATION ITEMS -**
- (a) **Environment Strategy**
 - (b) **Transport Vision**
 - (c) **Service 846**
 - (d) **LTP Scrutiny**

Environment Strategy

Members were given a presentation on the Environment Strategy. It was reported that as part of Metro's commitment to environmental improvement and leading in promotion of sustainable forms of transport, the Environment Strategy was being updated.

A questionnaire was circulated at the meeting and Members were asked for their views and comments on how Metro could reduce the environmental impact and develop an influencing role.

Members discussed the strategy and made various suggestions, which included the installation of solar powered/low cost lighting into bus shelters, bus stations and interchanges. It was suggested that operators be encouraged to use 'greener' engines/fuel in their vehicles, such as bio-diesel and ethanol, in an attempt to reduce CO₂ emissions. In this regard, Mr Hussain confirmed the use of bio-diesel fuel by First.

The Committee commended the discounted MetroCard scheme available to employers, which promoted the use of local public transport. Members were also advised of the success of a number of development agreements, which had provided free MetroCards to new residents.

Transport Vision

Members were given a presentation covering the main components of the 25-year vision for transport across the City Region. Copies of the vision were available at the meeting and Members were given the opportunity to contribute to the development of the implementation plan and prioritisation of schemes within the vision.

One element of the vision included the expansion of the MetroCard scheme to include the addition of extra zones to cover the City Regions area. In this respect, discussions were taking place with operators on how to phase in this initiative.

Service 846

The views of Members were sought on the outcome of a review of tendered minibus services in Bradford, jointly undertaken with First, to safeguard the continued operation of bus Service 846.

Members noted that Service 846 operated on a commercial basis by First and was well used, but financially unsustainable due to the high cost of operation. A review had evaluated the overall performance of minibus services in the area and proposed new arrangements were designed to maintain well used travel opportunities.

Initial feedback on the proposals had been generally positive and Members were invited to submit their views to Metro.

LTP Scrutiny

Members were given a presentation and their views were sought on the Review of Bradford Council's involvement in transport planning.

The review sought to establish if Bradford Council's involvement in the West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan process addressed/met the transport needs of local people, whether the transport system supported accessibility and choice in different communities and whether value for money was being achieved.

The Committee commended the review and suggested that, as part of the review, One Stop Shops, local communities and neighbourhood forums be more widely consulted. It was also suggested that the Involvement Review questionnaire be placed on/in Bradford Council's website/magazine in order to secure a wider audience and more considered feedback. It was confirmed that Parish and Town Councils in the district had already been consulted and that their feedback would be taken into consideration.

RESOLVED - That the comments and views of PCC members be noted.