

WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

**AT A MEETING OF THE LEEDS PASSENGER CONSULTATIVE
COMMITTEE HELD AT WELLINGTON HOUSE, LEEDS
ON MONDAY 12 JANUARY 2009**

PRESENT: Councillor C Campbell (Chair)

WYPTA

R Downes
P Wadsworth

PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES

David Bowcock	Rosemary Keenoy
Brian Cooper	Jim Kerr
Vera Foster	Hazel Lee
Edward Gale	Martin Marerwa
Philip Good	Glenys Meredith
Timothy Holdsworth	Frank Priestley
Joyce Hutt	Eric Smith
	Charles Stones

LEEDS CC

C Fox

Also in attendance:-

S Graham	-	First Leeds
C Newbury	-	Arriva Yorkshire
D Mallender	-	First TransPennine Express
D Haley	-	Northern
C Leslie	-	TSSA

Observers: Mr W Tymms
Mr R Wilkes

11. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Carter,
D Congreve, J Jarosz and M Lyons and public representative Lynn Jones.

12. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2008 be approved.

13. 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 6 October 2008 and to report the action taken.

It was reported that with regard to Metro's Journey Planner, discussions were being held with stakeholders in the Yorkshire Partnership on how the current journey planner could be enhanced or replaced to incorporate the valuable feedback received from PCC members.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted

14. INFORMATION REPORT

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

Ticket Barriers at Leeds Station

It was reported that the ticket barriers at Leeds Station had been in operation since October 2008 with a number of gates being permanently staffed to allow the manual checking of non-magnetic tickets. However Northern were advised that there were occasions when open barriers were left unattended and Northern would investigate the matter. It was reported that there had been problems regarding the validation of tickets at the barriers but the necessary software had been installed and would be fully operational in the near future. Metro was working with the rail industry to improve the handling of non-magnetic tickets in the short term although smart card technology remained the preferred long term option.

With regard to congestion in the ticket hall, Northern would investigate the suggestion for a single line queuing system for ticket sales.

FreeCityBus

Members requested information regarding the patronage for the FreeCityBus service in Leeds and Metro would conduct surveys on the service and prepare a report for the next meeting.

Boxing Day Services

The Committee was given an update on the performance of Boxing Day bus services funded by Metro. Services had operated on core routes to and from the centres of Leeds, Huddersfield and several other areas where it was known that a significant number of retailers were opening for business. It was reported that although the passenger usage figures were not yet fully available it was believed that the services had been well used. It was

requested that Metro consider the production of printed timetables for Boxing Day services in 2009.

Service Changes

The Committee noted that the next major timetable change would take place on the weekend of 31 January/1 February 2009.

It was reported that First were planning several bus service changes in the Leeds area and these were summarised in the submitted report. However members were advised that with regard to Service 63, a replacement service would be operated by Arriva whilst a review was undertaken by Metro. A copy of Metro's Changing Times leaflet which incorporated details of all the changes would be circulated to PCC members.

First Restructure

Members were advised of the reorganisation to First's operations in Yorkshire. The new Managing Director was Dave Alexander who would be supported by 4 other Directors including Richard Harris and Ian Humphrey.

Local Transport Act

Members were advised of the key changes to the Authority's responsibilities as a result of the legislation and that from February 2009 the Passenger Transport Authority would change its name to the West Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority (ITA).

Stakeholder Day

Members were invited to attend a Partner Roadshow which was to be held on Friday 20 March 2009 at Wellington House, Leeds.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

15. CONSULTATION ITEMS -

- (a) Low Carbon Demonstration Pilot**
- (b) Carbon Reduction Marketing Campaign**
- (c) Economic Climate and the Public Transport Industry**

Low Carbon Demonstration Pilot

It was reported that Metro was seeking funding from the Regional Transport Board to develop a Low Carbon Demonstration Project. The project would focus on the provision of a small fleet of hybrid buses and a package of supporting measures to reinforce Metro's aim to promote change in travel behaviour and lock in the benefits of modal shift.

Members were given a presentation on the aims, objectives and expected outcomes of a Low Carbon Demonstration project and their views and feedback was sought. They were asked to consider areas or routes where a pilot scheme could be carried out and asked to forward any suggestions on the questionnaire provided.

Carbon Reduction Marketing Campaign

The Committee were given a presentation on a proposed carbon reduction marketing campaign to be carried out during 2009 which was aimed at:

- Targeting congestion on various main routes in West Yorkshire
- Informing the public about how carbon footprints could be reduced by using public transport
- Promoting MetroCards for multi modal, multi operator travel
- Working with Travel Plan Network employers to encourage the use of alternative modes of transport to the car for travelling to work.

Members were given the opportunity to provide input and feedback on the proposed campaign.

Economic Climate and the Public Transport Industry

The Committee discussed the general economic downturn which was having a significant effect in West Yorkshire including increased unemployment. Members were asked for their views on what Metro and the public transport industry could do to support people affected by the current economic climate.

Comment was made that the public transport industry could assist by not increasing fares for 12 months. In response, Mr Graham advised the Committee that First Group aspired to avoid price increases but unfortunately most businesses were suffering from the state of the economy and were having to address cost increases.

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

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

16. MR S GRAHAM

The Chair advised members that this would be Mr Graham's last meeting of the Committee following the restructuring of First Group's operations in Yorkshire.

He thanked Mr Graham for his dedicated work in the bus industry and passed on the Committee's best wishes for the future.