

AGENDA ITEM No: 2

WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

AT A MEETING OF THE LEEDS PASSENGER CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE HELD AT WELLINGTON HOUSE, LEEDS ON MONDAY 3 APRIL 2006

PRESENT: Councillor D Schofield (Chair)

WYPTA

D Blackburn
R Downes
K Hussain
J Jarosz
J Lewis
P Wadsworth

PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES

Jennifer Boden	Lucie Middlemiss
Vera Foster	Erin McFeely
Barbara Kay	Frank Priestley
Rosemary Keenoy	Anne Rayner
Janet Latham	Judith Rhodes
C Leslie (TSSA)	Eric Smith

Also in attendance:-

R Harris	-	First Leeds
S Bear	-	Arriva
D Haley	-	Northern
D Mallender	-	First TransPennine Express

12. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J McKenna and public representatives Mr Bowcock, Mrs Dinsdale, Mr Gallagher and Mr Good.

13. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2006 be approved.

14. 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 16 January 2006.

Members were reminded that individual detailed matters could be raised with Metro officers at the close of the meeting.

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 Leeds District.

Concessionary Travel Arrangements

It was reported that with effect from Saturday 1 April 2006 people holding a Metro Senior or Disabled Concessionary Permit were entitled to free travel on all local bus services in the county, after 0930 Monday to Friday and all day Saturday, Sunday and public holidays. Metro had extended the scheme to include travel on most cross-boundary services.

It was noted that the Chancellor's Budget Statement on 22 March 2006 announced plans for the introduction of a national free concessionary travel scheme from 2008. It was noted that further details of the proposed scheme were awaited.

Rail Rolling Stock Extra Capacity

Members were advised that Yorkshire Forward had agreed an £8m contribution to provide additional rolling stock. This would provide 12 additional carriages, which would be used to address overcrowding problems on some of the busiest peak services in West Yorkshire including routes on the Caldervale line.

YourNextBus Real Time Information Project

The Committee were updated on progress with the project and it was reported that bus operators had started to use the data from the system to identify problem areas in their timetables. Comment was made that it was not always realtime information that was provided and members were advised that there had been issues regarding journey matching and cross journey predictions, which should be resolved once new software had been installed.

Leeds FreeCityBus

Members noted that the new service had received a positive response and discussions were being held with partners to secure its continuation at the end of the six-month trial.

Comment was made that it would be useful for a route map to be displayed inside the vehicle and the use of on-bus announcements would be helpful to visitors to the city. It was noted that if the service continued, the vehicles would be equipped with realtime equipment, which would allow for announcements to be made and, in the meantime, Metro would investigate the provision of route maps within buses.

It was suggested that it would be beneficial if the route could be extended to serve both Marshalls Mill at Holbeck and St James' Hospital. The Committee were advised that Metro were aware of parts of the city, which would benefit from the service. If the trial were successful, consideration would be given to the provision of a second service in the future and members were thanked for their suggestions.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

**16. CONSULTATION ITEM -
HOW TO MAKE BETTER USE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

The Committee considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on ways to make better use of public transport.

Following a brief presentation, members were asked to provide feedback and suggestions for future action on ways to make better use of public transport capacity. They were asked to consider how to increase off-peak rail use, evening and Sunday bus use and how commuters could be encouraged to travel at different times in order to reduce over-crowding.

The following comments were made:

- Large employers could be more flexible with their working hours
- Buses should be more reliable, especially on corridors where there was only one service per hour
- Buses could be cleaner
- Rail fare pricing policies were too variable
- Consider the use of one bus lane on narrow corridors, which could be regulated for inward and outward flow at peak times.

Members were thanked for their useful contributions and were asked for forward any further suggestions to Metro.

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