

WEST YORKSHIRE INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

**AT A MEETING OF THE LEEDS PASSENGER CONSULTATIVE
COMMITTEE HELD AT WELLINGTON HOUSE, LEEDS
ON MONDAY 4 JULY 2011**

PRESENT: Councillor M Lyons (Chair)

WYITA

M Coulson
R Downes
W Hyde
J Lewis
V Morgan

PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES

David Brady	Hazel Lee
Paul Chadwick	Alan Oldroyd
Brian Cooper	Judith Rhodes
Ray Finlayson	Eric Smith
Edward Gale	Ann Stocks
David Hope	Charles Stones
Rosemary Keenoy	Bill Tymms

LEEDS CC

C Campbell
C Fox

Also in attendance:-

R Harris	-	First Leeds
D Brookes	-	Centrebus
M Muirhead-Reeves	-	Centrebus
S Anguige	-	Arriva Yorkshire
D Haley	-	Northern
D Mallender	-	First TransPennine Express

1. CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair welcomed new public representative, Judith Rhodes to her first meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Harper and public representatives John Gittos, Catherine Keighley, Neal Ricketts and Peter Wood.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 April 2011 be noted.

4. MEMBER FEEDBACK

The Committee considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive advising members of the feedback received at the meeting held on 4 April 2011 and to report the action taken.

At the last meeting the Committee had been consulted on Metro's Information Strategy and the key points raised were outlined in the submitted report. Members discussed the use of technology such as Smartphone applications for downloading information and it was noted that this would be considered in the further development of the YourNextBus scheme. Comment was made that whilst it was important to develop systems and introduce new technology, there would still be the need to retain other sources for information such as Metroline. Members praised the invaluable service provided by Metroline.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

5. INFORMATION REPORT

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

Bus Service Changes

The Committee noted the bus service changes outlined in the submitted report which would take place on 23/24 July 2011. Details were set out in a copy of Metro's Public Transport Changes leaflet which would be circulated to all members in the near future.

Service 923 (Tadcaster-Wetherby-Otley)

Members were advised that a decision was still awaited from North Yorkshire County Council regarding the continued operation of service 923 from October 2011. Bus operators would be invited to submit bids against four options based upon a revised route and a final decision will be made in August 2011.

Hybrid Bus Update

It was reported that the remaining 16 hybrid buses to be introduced by First on the A61 Scott Hall Road guideway corridor and some Wetherby services would be operational by the end of September 2011. Passenger feedback on the 6 buses already in service had been very positive and the service would be monitored to measure patronage growth and service performance. Members were advised that First had brought members' concerns regarding safety issues due to the vehicles lack of noise to the attention of the engineers. Their feedback was awaited although it was noted that there had not been any reported problems with the operation of the vehicles in Manchester.

Leeds City Bus

Mr Harris provided the Committee with an update on the Leeds City Bus which First had agreed to operate on a commercial basis with a 50p flat fare for a six month trial period when the FreeCityBus was withdrawn. It was reported that despite extensive marketing prior to the change, which took place on 1 April 2011, many passengers had been unaware of the introduction of the flat fare. There had also been a decline in passengers who had concessionary passes or MetroCards. First would continue to monitor the service and make a decision regarding its future at the end of the trial period.

Bus Strategy - Quality Contracts

Members requested an update on the development of Quality Contracts. They were advised that although the bus partnership offer made by the Association of Bus Operators in West Yorkshire (ABOWY) had considerable merit, it did not meet the ITA's requirements in respect of integrated ticketing and was also unable to address the Competition Commission's concerns regarding market concentration.

At its meeting held on 17 June 2011, the ITA had reaffirmed their interest in Quality Contracts and Metro was continuing to undertake technical work on the development of a Quality Contract scheme although it was intended to await the Competition Commission's final report before considering proceeding to the next formal step in the process.

Police Liaison

The Committee was advised that Metro had secured joint funding with bus operators and West Yorkshire Police and Police Sergeant Rachel Cloughton had been appointed as the Transport Liaison Officer for Safer Travel – West Yorkshire. The overall role of the post was to act as a full time Police Liaison officer for public transport operators, Metro and the public in all public transport related matters.

New Generation Transport

The Committee was advised that Metro and Leeds City Council were developing a 'Best and Final Funding Bid' (BAFFB) for submission to the Department for Transport by 9 September 2011 and a decision was expected by the end of 2011.

Rail Growth Package

It was noted that a 'Best and Final Funding Bid' for the proposed stations at Apperley Bridge and Kirkstall Forge would be submitted to the Department for Transport by 9 September 2011 deadline. If the Leeds Rail Growth Package scheme is successful, work on the development of the proposals would recommence in 2012.

Leeds Station Southern Entrance

It was expected that procurement for the first stage of detailed design would commence in summer 2011 with a view to appointing a contractor in September 2011. It was anticipated that work would commence in March 2013 with completion scheduled by March 2014.

Customer Information Screens at Rail Stations

It was noted that 18 customer information screens, funded by Metro and Northern Rail would be installed at various locations later in the year. Metro had also submitted a funding application for further screens at 22 other stations across West Yorkshire and a decision was expected from the Department for Transport in September 2011.

With regard to the audio announcements in rail stations, comment was made that these were sometimes difficult to hear because the speakers had been placed in the roof. Mr Haley from Northern agreed to see if anything could be done to improve the sound or relocate the speakers. However he advised the Committee that when the system was installed the specification for the system and siting of the speakers had been approved as suitable for people with hearing impairments.

Additional Rail Carriages

It was reported that the Department for Transport had announced the provision of five additional electric four car trains in our area which would facilitate additional peak services on the Leeds electric network. Details of the additional services were outlined in the submitted report. It was noted that there would also be some capacity enhancements on the Caldervale line through train lengthening as a result of a cascade of trains. It was expected that the enhancements would be introduced in December 2011 with the new timetable. Metro was continuing to support Northern Rail with the DfT negotiations for further packages that would focus on train lengthening of existing services.

Northern Hub

Members were updated on the Northern Hub proposals which were subject to the outcome of the Government's 2012 High Level Output Statement process. It was noted that the proposals were extremely positive for West Yorkshire and would help to deliver improved journey times and frequency between Leeds and Manchester and provide direct journeys from Bradford, Halifax and the Calder Valley to Manchester Airport and destinations west of Manchester.

Eastgate Development

Members requested a report to the next meeting on the proposed shopping development on Eastgate and the effect it would have on the routing of bus services.

Smartcard Project

An update on the smartcard project would be provided at the next meeting.

ITA Membership 2011/12

It was noted that at its Annual Meeting held on 17 June 2011, the ITA had elected Councillor James Lewis as Chairman and Councillor Eric Firth as Deputy Chairman. An ITA Year Book was being prepared and would be distributed to all PCC members in the near future.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

6. CONSULTATION ITEMS – AREA BUS NETWORK REVIEWS AND RAILPLAN 7

Area Bus Network Reviews

It was reported that Metro would be reviewing bus networks in each district over the next two years. Members were given a short presentation on the approach to the reviews, which aimed to develop a bus network which met the objectives set out in the Local Transport Plan 3 and ensured that Metro obtained value for money from the services it funded.

It was proposed that the Leeds review would be undertaken during Summer/Autumn 2012 for change in April 2013. The reviews would include a retendering exercise which aimed to reduce spending and the views of local people would be sought in each district through consultation events and via Metro's website and social media channels. Members' views were sought on the proposed programme for the reviews which was outlined in the submitted report and they took part in an interactive Quizdom questionnaire.

RailPlan 7

It was reported that following the publication of the Local Transport Plan 3, Metro was developing a Railplan to focus in more detail on rail matters. Members' views were sought on the document which would be published for consultation in September 2011 followed by the launch of the final version in January 2012.

The Committee discussed capacity issues at Leeds City Station. It was noted that there would be a need for an additional station, centrally located, should High Speed Rail services be extended to Leeds.

Comment was made that there was no ramped access at Headingley rail station and members were advised that access to rail stations would be considered during the development of RailPlan 7.

Members were thanked for their contributions and were asked to forward any further ideas or comments to Metro on the questionnaire provided at the meeting or by email to: erica.ward@wypte.gov.uk.

RESOLVED – That members' feedback be noted.