

WEST YORKSHIRE INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

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

PRESENT: Councillor M Lyons (Chair)

WYITA

M Coulson
R Downes
W Hyde
J Lewis
J Matthews
E Taylor

PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES

David Brady	Catherine Keighley
Paul Chadwick	Hazel Lee
Brian Cooper	Alan Oldroyd
Ray Finlayson	Neil Ricketts
Edward Gale	Eric Smith
John Gittos	Charles Stones
David Hope	Bill Tymms
Rosemary Keenoy	Peter Wood

LEEDS CC

C Fox

Also in attendance:-

R Harris	-	First Leeds
D Brookes	-	Centrebus
M Muirhead-Reeves	-	Centrebus
C Newbury	-	Arriva Yorkshire
D Haley	-	Northern

13. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Colin Campbell and public representative Ann Stocks.

14. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2011 be noted.

15. MEMBER FEEDBACK

The Committee considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive advising members of the feedback received at the meeting held on 17 January 2011 and to report the action taken.

Members were thanked for their input into the development of LTP3 which had been approved by the ITA and published on 1 April 2011. Copies of the full Plan were available on the LTP website and an Executive Summary was being prepared and would be circulated to members.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

16. 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 were taking place in April 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.

Easter and Bank Holiday Services

The Committee noted the effect on bus and rail services to be provided during the Easter and May Day Bank Holiday weekends. Details would be included in the Public Transport Changes leaflet and on Metro's website.

Free City/Town Bus Services

It was reported that Leeds City Council had been unable to continue its funding for the Leeds FreeCityBus and members were updated on the arrangements made to secure the service. First had agreed to operate the service on a commercial basis with a 50p flat fare for a six month trial period and continuation of the service would be dependent upon passenger usage.

East Coast May 2011 Timetable

Details of the new East Coast timetable which would operate from 22 May 2011 were noted. The new timetable would provide faster journey times between Leeds, Wakefield and London, a direct service from London to Harrogate via Leeds, a half hourly weekday service and more services at weekends.

Additional Rail Carriages

Members were advised that Northern Rail were in detailed negotiations with the Department for Transport regarding the provision of additional rail carriages to alleviate overcrowding in West Yorkshire. Further details would be reported to future meetings of the Committee once the outcome of the negotiations was known.

Northern Hub

It was noted that Network Rail had received funding to progress some of the Northern Hub's infrastructure proposals. A full proposal would be developed shortly so that it could be included in the 2014-19 investment programme to be agreed with the Department for Transport and the Rail Regulator.

The Caldervale Line

It was reported that Metro was working closely with Calderdale and Bradford Councils who had jointly appointed consultants, Arup, to develop proposals for enhancing the Caldervale line. Improvements to the existing rail services would help connect people to jobs and local amenities and would support the strategic vision for economic growth. The work being carried out would be fed into the Northern Hub work being led by Network Rail and it was hoped that the enhancements sought could be implemented through the Northern Hub scheme and the next Northern franchise.

High Speed Rail

The Committee was updated on the latest position regarding the proposals for High Speed Rail. It was noted that West Yorkshire would benefit from reduced journey times and additional capacity and members stressed the importance of continuing to support the campaign.

Major Schemes

Members noted the current position on projects which had been affected by the Department of Transport's review of major schemes. Details for each of the following were outlined in the submitted report:

- A65 Quality Bus Initiative
- Leeds Station Southern Entrance
- NGT
- Leeds Rail Growth Package
- Castleford Interchange
- Leeds Inner Ring Road Maintenance

With regard to the NGT scheme, it was reported that work was underway to develop a Best and Final Bid for submission to the Department for Transport (DfT). Metro and Leeds City Council had recently met with the Secretary of

State for Transport to discuss the bid and had pressed for an early decision. A presentation on the scheme would be given at the next meeting of the Committee.

Members discussed the introduction of hybrid buses on some routes in the Leeds area. Comment was made that although the vehicles were more economical, consideration should be given to the dangers for people who were visually impaired as they were unable to hear the vehicles when they were approaching the bus stops.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

17. CONSULTATION ITEM – METRO’S INFORMATION STRATEGY

Members were advised that local transport authorities had a duty to consult with local user representatives, bus operators, local stakeholders and the Traffic Commissioner about the provision of information including routes, timetabling, fares, facilities for disabled passengers and connections with other public transport services. An Information Strategy was being developed for the next three years and consultation with the PCCs would be a key component.

The Committee was given a presentation and it was reported that the Local Transport Plan 3 contained elements of additional activities to enhance information that could be developed over the next 3 years. It was noted that much of the current strategy was still relevant but it was important that it reflected the changing needs of all sectors of the community.

Members took part in an interactive Quizdom questionnaire. They were asked a number of questions and their responses were captured and an immediate indication of their opinions was given on the important elements of the strategy and information provision as well as any key areas for development.

With regard to the provision of real time information for visually impaired people, it was reported that the current equipment was now several years old and did not have the facility to provide on-bus announcements. Members were advised that it would not be financially viable to update the current software but when the system was replaced in the future new technology would allow for audio announcements.

Members were thanked for their participation in the Quizdom survey and were advised that all the information gathered would be fed into the draft Information Strategy. They 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.