

AGENDA ITEM NO: 2

WEST YORKSHIRE INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

AT A MEETING OF THE LEEDS PASSENGER CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE HELD AT WELLINGTON HOUSE, LEEDS ON MONDAY 6 JULY 2009

PRESENT: Councillor C Campbell (Chair)

WYITA

D Congreve
R Downes
T Leadley
P Wadsworth

PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES

David Bowcock	Lynn Jones
Brian Cooper	Jim Kerr
Ian Davies	Hazel Lee
Vera Foster	Frank Priestley
Edward Gale	Eric Smith
Philip Good	Charles Stones
Timothy Holdsworth	Bill Tymms
Joyce Hutt	

LEEDS CC

C Fox
J Lewis

Also in attendance:-

R Harris	-	First Leeds
D Siddle	-	Arriva Yorkshire
D Mallender	-	First TransPennine Express
D Haley	-	Northern

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mick Lyons and public representatives Anthony Austwick, Rosemary Keenoy and Glenys Meredith.

2. CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair welcomed Ian Davies and Bill Tymms to their first meeting of the Committee.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meetings held on 30 March 2009 and 10 June 2009 be approved.

4. 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 30 March 2009 and to report the action taken.

2009 Market Research Programme

Following suggestions from members, additional questions had been added to the survey and the sample size for the telephone survey had been increased. The questionnaire had also been made available on the Metro web site. Results of the survey were expected in the near future and would be reported to the next meeting of the Committee.

Leeds Rail Station

Members had previously expressed concern regarding congestion problems in the ticket hall. Northern did not consider that the problems would be resolved by painting lines on the floor and believed that a longer term approach, such as resiting the ticket sales office, would be required to address the issue. Mr Haley reported that in the medium term, Northern were investigating the possibility of installing ticket vending machines at other locations in the station to alleviate congestion at peak times. In the short term, they would also investigate the suggestion of redeploying staff to marshal and sell tickets to people in the ticket queues at busy periods.

Comment was also made that the two newly installed retail cabins were obscuring the information screens when entering the station. As people approached the ticket hall they now had to stop nearer to the screens to read the information and this was causing additional problems. Members were advised that the retail units at the station were Network Rail's responsibility but Mr Haley would check the positioning of the screens.

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 was updated on the forthcoming service reductions which had been the subject of a special PCC Meeting held in June 2009. Full details were incorporated in the Changing Times leaflet which had been circulated to members.

Night Buses

It was reported that late night bus services to the North West and East Leeds had been withdrawn earlier in the year leaving only the student areas of Headingley with bus services after midnight. Experience and evidence from other major cities suggests that there was potential for late night and all-night bus services, focussed on longer journeys. Metro was therefore exploring the feasibility of late night buses on longer routes to major centres such as Leeds to Wakefield and Leeds to Bradford where late night rail services were not available.

Metro Active

The Committee was advised of the campaign for young people to use public transport for leisure journeys during the summer. The daily £1 off peak ticket would be available during August and Metro was promoting the scheme widely. Bus operators were thanked for their co-operation with the campaign.

Leeds Station 'Cyclepoint'

The Committee noted that Northern was working in partnership with Network Rail, Metro and Leeds City Council on an initiative to develop a 'cyclepoint' facility in the forecourt of Leeds Station. The concept was well established in the Netherlands and designed to provide a central, integrated cycle facility that could deal with storage, hire and cycle-related sales, repairs and information.

Zone 6 and 7 Tickets

Members discussed the recent launch of Zone 6 and 7 rail tickets which allowed rail travellers in Harrogate or Skipton who made regular rail journeys to save money with onward train travel within West Yorkshire. It was suggested that the wording in the publicity leaflet should be amended as there was some confusion regarding the validity of the tickets for passengers travelling from West Yorkshire into North Yorkshire. The Committee discussed the cost of the ticket, which unlike MetroCard, was not valid on any bus services in either North or West Yorkshire. It was noted that it was not possible to reduce the price of the tickets because of the financial implications.

Work was ongoing to develop proposals for expanding the new zonal tickets to other areas within the Leeds City Region.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

6. **CONSULTATION ITEMS -**
- (a) **NGT**
 - (b) **Rural Bus Shelters**
 - (c) **Realtime Voiceserver**
 - (d) **Sustainable Cities Bid**
 - (e) **Future Local Rail Timetable Development**

NGT

The Committee was given a short presentation and discussed progress with the NGT (New Generation Transport) scheme including the public exhibitions and the ongoing consultation exercise. Members were asked to visit the public exhibitions and any feedback would be welcomed. It was noted that a questionnaire had been developed and was available at Libraries, One Stop Shops and on the NGT website, www.ngtmetro.com. Work was also continuing on the development of the Major Scheme Business Case which would be submitted to the Department for Transport later in the year.

Sustainable Cities Bid

It was reported that the government had recently announced details of a competition to fund a sustainable travel cities project. It was noted that Metro was working with partners to develop a funding bid for Leeds which had to be submitted to the Department for Transport by mid July.

Members were given a short presentation on the draft bid and proposed programme and their views were sought on the proposal.

Comment was made that the Leeds Station Cyclepoint Scheme should be highlighted in the submission as a 'green' initiative. Other suggestions included using the funding, if the bid was successful, to raise awareness and promote public transport by offering 'taster' tickets.

Rural Bus Shelters

The Committee was advised that one of the targets in the Local Transport Plan 2 was that 95% of the shelters in West Yorkshire would be upgraded to meet modern standards by 2011. There were 4,500 bus shelters in West Yorkshire and the current criteria for the provision of a shelter was that it must have 50 boarding passengers per day. However, it was acknowledged that it was not possible to meet this criteria in rural areas. Members were given a short presentation and their views were sought on Metro's proposals to develop a rural bus shelter programme. They were also asked to consider several aspects including:

- What criteria should be used for rural shelters eg. should there be a shelter in every village?
- How important is lighting in a rural shelter?
- What type of structure and what materials should be used eg. wood, brick, glass etc?
- How often should the shelter be cleaned eg. would less than the current 2 weekly cycle be acceptable?

The following comments were made:

- It was possible that cleaning could be less frequent but consideration should be given to seasonal problems such as autumn leaf fall.

- Not all areas would want advertising on shelters and it was hoped this would not be a deterrent against shelters being provided. It was noted that planning consent was required for advertising shelters.
- Some members considered that lighting was not necessarily essential. However comment was made that in some remote areas bus shelters were used as meeting points for local youths and it was suggested that they would need cleaning, lighting and litter bins and be made vandal proof.
- It was suggested that consideration should be given to provide shelters at exposed sites whether they were on a major bus route or in a rural location.
- Comment was made that some shelters had been provided by Parish Councils, their litter bins by District Councils and timetables by Metro. In those cases it was suggested that agreements be made to avoid duplication of maintenance duties.

Realtime Voice Server

The Committee was given a short presentation on the development of the YourNextBus Automated Voice System. It was reported that the voice server would allow users to call a number, type in their stop number and have the real time information read out to them. The system was currently being tested and, depending on the feedback, would be rolled out over the next few months.

Members welcomed the development and they were asked to test the system and pass any comments to Metro, including how it could be promoted to the public.

Future Local Rail Timetable Development

Mr Haley of Northern Rail briefed members on the process for the development of their rail timetables.

It was reported that work had commenced on compiling the December 2010 timetable and members were asked to provide Northern with any ideas, suggestions or aspirations which could be evaluated as part of the process for December 2010 and future timetables. In particular, their views on enhancements to Sunday services would be welcome.

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

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