

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Metro's Best Value Performance Plan for 2008/09.

Over the past 12 months, Metro has pressed ahead with the work required to turn the Leeds City Region 25-year Transport Vision, unveiled in November 2006, into a Transport Plan.

The £4.5bn vision set out a range of measures designed to ensure the city region's ongoing economic success in the face of growing congestion. These included tram-trains on the Harrogate rail line, more electrified rail routes, better road links, a new generation of bus transport, new stations, and more park-and-ride stations.

In March 2008, Network Rail announced it would hold UK trials of tram-trains on the Penistone rail line between Huddersfield and Sheffield and, in April, we gained the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Transport Board's approval for a New Generation Transport system for Leeds. This included a commitment of £150m for its first phase, and city transport specialists are now developing detailed proposals as part of a full business case submission to the Department for Transport by early 2009.

The Regional Transport Board also agreed to £80m of funding for new passenger access on the southern side of Leeds rail station, a new East Leeds Parkway station with parking for 500 cars, and the extension of the Yorcard smartcard ticketing scheme, currently being tested in South Yorkshire, which could help pave the way for an extension of MetroCard.

Metro has been working closely with train operator First TransPennine Express to improve the route between the Leeds and Manchester city regions, identified as a key priority in the City Region Transport Vision. The need for extra rolling stock on the route has been recognised by the Department for Transport and detailed proposals are being drawn up. Metro and the city region partners have also been carrying out work to influence a study of the Manchester Hub, identified as a damaging rail bottleneck that constrains TransPennine passenger services.

As a result of a Metro-led feasibility study, Northern Rail has announced proposals for a revised Caldervale timetable from December 2008, which will introduce a third Leeds-Manchester train per hour via the Caldervale line and see journey times of below one hour for some services between Bradford and Manchester.

Our **Mybus** school buses received a positive report from David Blunkett and fellow members of the national Yellow School Bus Commission, and we collected a national accessibility award for a service that has been adapted for pupils attending Special Educational Needs schools.

Plans for new rail stations at Kirkstall, Apperley Bridge and Horsforth Woodside continued to progress, and work continued to establish how many extra carriages will be needed above and beyond Network Rail's proposed 60 to 90, to meet predicted growth in passenger numbers.

By Christmas 2007, applications for the new English national concessionary passes, in response to Metro's Smile sign-up

campaign, had exceeded 250,000 and by mid-February the figure stood at over 301,000. Passes started being sent out in March in time for the start of the free, off-peak, local bus travel scheme to come in across England on 1 April.

And at 5.57pm on Tuesday 13 November 2007, yournextbus delivered its two-millionth real-time bus information text message.

In November 2007 Metro was awarded IIP Champion status for its outstanding approach to staff development. Metro continues to be recognised as one of Britain's top employers.

Metro's previous work with partners Yorkshire Forward and Northern Rail to introduce six additional train units for West Yorkshire services in December 2006, won it the Outstanding Teamwork Award at the National Rail Awards Ceremony in September.

Wakefield FreeCityBus, the latest addition to the FreeBus family, was introduced in April 2007 and was an immediate success, carrying 100,000 passengers in just four months. A year on from its introduction in October 2006, Huddersfield's FreeTownBus had been used by over 250,000 passengers.

Over 37,000 trips were made on trial Boxing Day bus services, paving the way for a further test this year and possibly on New Year's Day 2009.

This Best Value Performance Plan sets out Metro's performance compared to its vision including its financial statement so that you, and our industry partners, can see the progress we are making to achieve and develop better public transport for West Yorkshire.

Councillor Ryk Downes Chairman
Kieran Preston Director General



Ryk Downes Chairman



Kieran Preston Director General

BEST VALUE SUMMARY

2007/08

Metro is the Passenger Transport Authority (PTA), made up of elected members from the county's five local authorities and the Passenger Transport Executive (PTE), which employs almost 400 people.

Metro champions public transport on behalf of the people of West Yorkshire and the Leeds city region, coordinating and developing infrastructure and services to meet current and future demands.

Metro spends around £20m each year subsidising vital services not considered profitable by the bus operating companies. It also funds local MetroTrain services, runs passenger facilities, operates AccessBus services for disabled passengers, manages prepaid tickets and concessionary fares schemes, and leads transport development across West Yorkshire.

Metro is also committed to providing accurate, up-to-date and impartial information on all public transport services within West Yorkshire.

Each year the Passenger Transport Authority publishes a Best Value Summary to tell people about what Metro is doing to champion public transport in West Yorkshire. Once again, as part of our ongoing commitment to environmental sustainability, we have decided to publish the summary information online rather than printing it.

We will, however, be publicising the fact that it is available and printed copies will be available for people who cannot access it online. Copies can also be supplied in large print, Braille or audiotape. Anyone wanting these options should contact Metro on 0113 251 7272.

