

AGENDA ITEM NO: 15

WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

AT A MEETING OF THE KIRKLEES PASSENGER CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE HELD IN THE TOWN HALL, DEWSBURY ON WEDNESDAY 17 JANUARY 2007

PRESENT: Councillor K Hussain (Chair)

WYPTA

J S King
P McBride
E Smaje

PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES

John Appleyard	Roger Moore
Don Burslam	Kathleen O'Shea
Jeffrey Cooper	Keith Parry
Richard Fieldhouse	Anne Prince
Sean Flood	Norma Senior
Martin Furness	Chris Taylor

KIRKLEES MC

M Harkin

Also in attendance:

P Stone	-	Arriva Yorkshire
D Squire	-	Arriva Yorkshire
R Bartlett	-	Arriva Yorkshire
C Goulthorpe	-	First
D Mallender	-	TransPennine Express
V Podgorski	-	Kirklees MC

11. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor L Wilkinson.

12. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of this Committee held on 11 October 2006 be approved

13. 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 11 October 2006 and the action taken.

Members were thanked for their contributions regarding Metro's process for handling feedback on bus and rail service complaints and compliments. These would be considered in the development of revised procedures currently being developed. Members were reminded that individual detailed matters could be raised with Metro officers at the end of the meeting.

The Committee expressed their concern regarding the temporary ticket barriers which TransPennine Express had erected at Huddersfield Rail Station causing congestion and delays to passengers at peak times, causing some to miss trains.

TransPennine Express commented that the barriers had been installed for revenue protection purposes and they would become a permanent feature at the station in the future. TransPennine advised that they were issuing tickets at some unstaffed stations at peak times in order to reduce the numbers of passengers arriving at the station with no ticket.

The Committee requested that TransPennine provide further information to the next meeting.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

14. INFORMATION REPORT

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

Bus Services Changes

It was reported that the next major timetable change would take place on 27 January 2007 and copies of Metro's Changing Times leaflet were available at the meeting.

It was reported that following representations by the residents of Hunsworth regarding the withdrawal of their bus service, Arriva had modified their proposals and would provide a revised hourly service to the village.

Members expressed concern that operators had increased off peak fares with little publicity. Arriva advised that the increases had been advertised but apologised if not all passengers were aware. They said there would be a further publicity campaign to advertise their daily ticket, which had not increased in price.

Rail Station Cleaning

It was reported that Metro had raised the deterioration in the standard of station cleaning with Northern Rail. In order to address the problem, Northern

had increased resources in the short term and were reviewing their contract arrangements to ensure that acceptable standards were met in the future.

Local Transport Plan Settlement

It was reported that notification had been received from the Government Office that West Yorkshire would receive funding of £27.96 million in 2007/08 rising to £32.657 million in 2010/11. The funding allocation was based on an assessment of the performance of the 6 partners (Metro plus the five District Councils) during the first LTP period (2001-2006) and the quality of the second LTP both of which had received 'good' outcomes. As a result 3% bonus funds had been secured for local investment in schemes.

Huddersfield Rail Station

It was reported that as part of the Department for Transport's 'Access for All' initiative, Network Rail were developing proposals for step free access to Huddersfield Station.

Network Rail had indicated that their preferred option would be to provide lifts from the main platform and island platform to subway level. They were aware of local aspirations to link the existing passenger subway with St George's Square (via a pedestrian link that had previously existed) and the Fitzwilliam Street yard at the rear. The cost of this additional work could not be met by DfT funding. Metro and Kirklees MDC were investigating the feasibility of pursuing the extensions to the subway. An economic appraisal would be undertaken and a decision taken as to whether the necessary additional funding could be found to enable the proposals to be included within the Network Rail scheme.

Queensgate

It was reported that Metro and Kirklees MDC were assessing the public transport requirements arising from the proposal to redevelop the Queensgate quarter in Huddersfield.

Huddersfield FreeTownBus

Members noted that the new service had received a positive response and passenger numbers were exceeding 4,000 per week. Market research would be carried out during January 2007 to assess what improvements could be made and to provide further data regarding patronage. The new service was supported by members, who welcomed the improved accessibility it afforded to the mobility impaired.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

15. CONSULTATION ITEMS -
(a) Environment Strategy
(b) Transport Vision

Environment Strategy

Members received a presentation on the Environment Strategy. It was reported that as part of Metro's commitment to environmental improvement the Environment Strategy was being updated.

It was suggested that bus and rail operators should recycle paper and bottles collected on their services. Members raised the issue of buses standing with their engines running and also the use of heaters during the summer months. Mr Stone advised that all drivers were aware of the nuisance that could be caused by idling engines at timing points. Whilst driver behaviour had improved, Arriva were adopting new technology which would turn engines off automatically after they had been standing for 5 minutes.

It was reported that Metro was working with the District Councils regarding the provision of bus priority measures to alleviate congestion, reduce journey times and encourage people to travel by public transport. These actions were essential to encourage mode change from car to bus.

A questionnaire was circulated at the meeting and members were asked for their views and comments on how Metro could reduce the environmental impact and develop an influencing role.

Transport Vision

Members received a presentation covering the main components of the 25 year vision for transport across the City Region. Copies of the vision were available at the meeting and members were given the opportunity to contribute to the development of the implementation plan and prioritisation of schemes within the vision.

Comment was made that although the Huddersfield – Leeds via Dewsbury route had been highlighted as suffering the worst congestion, there was insufficient priority given to the development of measures to resolve current problems. It was suggested that more emphasis should be given to local rail services on the TransPennine rail corridor, the A62 corridor and Dewsbury in view of the proposed regeneration plans for the area.

The Committee noted that the submission had the collective support of all the City Region Leaders although it was recognised that there would be further debate about the development and prioritisation of schemes.

Members were asked to submit their views and comments on the proposed schemes, bus improvement corridors and interchanges to Metro.

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