

WEST YORKSHIRE INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

**AT A MEETING OF THE KIRKLEES PASSENGER CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE TOWN HALL, HUDDERSFIELD
ON FRIDAY 5 JUNE 2009**

PRESENT: Councillor T Brice (Chair)

WYITA

C Greaves
P McBride
A Pinnock

PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES

John Appleyard
Mark Denton
Richard Fieldhouse
David Hargreaves
Shaun Jordan
Keith Parry
Shamir Patel
Chris Taylor
William Kirby

KIRKLEES MC

A Cooper
B Jones
G Lowe

Also in attendance:

D Alexander - First
R Harris - First
D McGraw - First
S Bear - Arriva Yorkshire
T Singh - Centrebus
R Cox - Stagecoach
T Lawrence - Kirklees MC
Reporter - Huddersfield Examiner
24 members of the public.

24. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Firth and L Wilkinson and public representatives Don Burslam and Kathleen O'Shea.

25. JULY BUS SERVICE REDUCTIONS

The meeting was given an overview on the role and responsibilities of Metro and the ITA in relation to the provision of bus services in West Yorkshire.

It was reported that changes to Arriva, Centrebus, First and Stagecoach commercial services had been registered for implementation on 18 July 2009. The bus operators had advised that it was necessary to reduce some services in view of the current economic climate. However, the changes represented

the largest single reduction in commercial service provision in the county since the deregulation of bus services in 1986. Metro had carried out research which had shown that the number of fare paying passengers in West Yorkshire could drop by more than 5% due to reductions in frequency, major service cuts and fare increases.

It was noted that whilst the changes to Arriva, Centrebus and Stagecoach services would have some local impacts, those proposed by First were more significant and wide ranging. It was stressed that Metro would be unable to financially support all the deregistered services and they had made strong representations to the operators seeking to address some of the issues which would arise. Members expressed concern that there had been insufficient consultation prior to the registrations and that it would now be difficult to find solutions for the areas which would be most severely affected.

The meeting condemned the scale of cuts and changes proposed by First in the Kirklees area which would mean that some communities would lose vital links to shops, hospitals and employment. Individual views and issues were raised and fully debated with Mr Alexander and Mr Harris from First.

Residents of the Newsome area expressed their anger and concern regarding the withdrawal of service 307. Councillor Cooper urged First to reconsider their proposal as this would leave the Primrose Hill/Cross Lane area without a bus service. He explained that many residents were elderly and non-car users and would become housebound as a result of the cuts. In response, First offered to continue serving the area with one bus per hour until September 2009. However they stressed that the service would be withdrawn at that time if passenger usage did not improve.

In closing the meeting, Councillor Brice thanked everyone for their attendance and commented that it had been important to make the operators aware of the public's opinion and views. Councillor Greaves passed on this thanks to everyone and in particular to Metro officers for their help in arranging the meeting and in their continuing discussions with operators in an attempt to mitigate the impact of the changes. However it was stressed that it would be impossible to meet all the demands for reinstatement.

RESOLVED - That the meeting's views on the impact of the July service changes be noted.