

AGENDA ITEM No: 10.

WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

AT A MEETING OF THE BRADFORD PASSENGER CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE HELD AT CITY HALL, BRADFORD ON FRIDAY 14 OCTOBER 2005

PRESENT: Councillor C Greaves (Chair)

WYPTA

S Khan
J S King
J Prestage

BRADFORD MDC

S Hussain

PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES

Louie Borrill	Geoff Reid
Michael Chappell	Keith Renshaw
David Charlesworth	Michael Tarran
Lorna Eastwood	Chris Walters
Andrew Jewsbury	Andrew Wowk
Graham Peacock	

Also in Attendance:

I Appleyard	-	Arriva Yorkshire
R Gledhill	-	First Bradford
G Lomax	-	Keighley & District Travel

1. COUNCILLOR ANN OZOLINS

The Chair thanked Councillor A Ozolins, former Chair, for her hard work and dedication to the Committee over the past year.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor K Hussain and public representatives Mr J Allison, Ms A M Edwardes, Mr S Morris-Armitage and Mr J Thornton.

3. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR

RESOLVED - That Mr Michael Tarran be elected as Deputy Chair of the Committee.

4. MINUTES

Further to Minute 17 regarding Concessionary Travel Changes, Members requested further information concerning changes to the scheme that would be effective early next year. It was reported that Metro was at present considering the wider implications of free bus travel in West Yorkshire to the concessionary fares scheme, including cross boundary and rail travel. Further details would be presented to a future meeting of the Committee.

In response to further requests for developments concerning Low Moor Station, Metro advised that timetable planning works with Northern and Network Rail were continuing and further details would be reported to a future meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 April 2005 be approved.
- (b) That a progress report concerning changes to the concessionary fares scheme and Low Moor Station be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

5. MEMBER 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 15 April 2005.

Members were advised that individual detailed matters could be raised with Metro officers at the close of the meeting.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

6. INFORMATION REPORT

The Committee considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on issues relating to the Bradford district.

Police Target (Safer Transport Group)

Members were advised that in September over 100 police officers, special constables and PCSOs targeted a number of problem bus routes, as part of the West Yorkshire Police Target (Safer Transport) Day. They provided a high visibility throughout the public transport network, which included presence at bus stations. The Crimestoppers' Transport operators 'Turn in a Tagger' campaign continued to address the problem of graffiti offences on public transport.

The introduction of CCTV and other measures had resulted in continued reduction in anti-social incidents at bus stations, which had decreased by 24% in the last year.

Christmas / New Year Bus and Train Service Arrangements

The Committee were advised of the local bus and rail services, which were scheduled to operate over the Christmas/New Year holiday period.

Bradford Minitram

It was reported that for 4½ hours a day Monday to Saturday between October and November 2005 Bradford MDC and Metro was providing a free shuttle service between Bradford Interchange, Bridge Street, Tyrrel Street, Hustlergate, Bank Street and back to the Interchange. The service would be operated using a new battery powered Minitram vehicle, which was a low-emission, low-noise and cost effective form of public transport, carrying up to 30 passengers. The service would be for a trial period to determine value for money and, if successful, a bid for funding a permanent route with fully accessible boarding points would be developed to coincide with the opening of the new Broadway Development in 2007/08.

MetroConnect Wharfe Valley

The Committee was advised that the Wharfe Valley Transport Study, which was joint funded by Metro and the Countryside Commission, had provided the basis for a review of bus services in the Ilkley, Otley and surrounding areas. It was reported that the first stage had been a review of the "W" network of tendered services and from 30 October 2005 a new network of services would be introduced. This would offer better connections to supermarkets at Otley and Ilkley, as well as provide a peak service from parts of Ilkley to the rail station. It was confirmed that the current links between Otley and Menston would be retained. Members welcomed the new scheme.

Bus Service Reliability and Punctuality

It was reported that Metro was developing Performance Improvement Partnerships (PIP) with bus companies and the District Council Traffic Managers to closely monitor bus performance, set improvement targets and agree action plans to achieve improvements in bus service reliability and punctuality. Members were informed that the Partnerships would be able to obtain a more comprehensive understanding of the causes of unreliability and poor punctuality through data acquired from the real time information system. It was noted that the Partnerships would commence in January 2006 and a progress report regarding their performance monitoring would be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

Bus Services to Denholme and Bradshaw

The Committee were advised that following the withdrawal of commercial service 502, Metro had introduced a new tendered service 504, which

operated hourly between Keighley, Bradshaw and Denholme and was timed to connect with Keighley & District services between Denholme and Keighley. In this respect, it was also confirmed that Keighley & District had agreed to temporarily extend the service from Cullingworth to Keighley on early morning journeys.

Members also requested that the availability of through links between service 504 and Keighley & District be incorporated within the timetable for the 504 service.

Travel Training

Members were informed that following the success of the Leeds Buddying Scheme, which ended earlier this year, Metro had employed two Travel Training Officers to work in partnership with District Council Social Services teams, education and health professionals to assist them in establishing Travel Training Units. They would also work with bus operators to improve disability awareness training/procedures with bus drivers. The team would work closely with the established travel training unit in Bradford and the new unit being developed in Leeds.

Yellow Bus

Members were advised that detailed planning for Phase 2 of the scheme was currently taking place and noted the list of schools and their anticipated implementation dates. It was reported that 60 vehicles would be introduced during the next academic year, the first batch of which would become operational at the end of October/beginning of November. The Committee was informed that low floor vehicles would be used for this phase rather than the high floor vehicles used for Phase 1, improving accessibility for children with mobility problems.

It was reported that the Yellow Bus scheme had been short listed for the Innovation Award for the UK Bus Awards 2005 and the winner would be announced in November 2005.

On-Bus CCTV

The Committee was advised of a scheme where Metro had assisted local bus operators with the fitting of on-board CCTV cameras and recording equipment to their vehicles. To-date, the first two phases of the initiative had enabled 364 vehicles to be fitted with CCTV facilities in an attempt to combat the problem of anti-social behaviour and vandalism on buses. The scheme aimed to improve the perception of safety for passengers/drivers and provide vital evidence for bus operators when dealing with incidents, accidents and insurance claims.

It was reported that feedback from operators regarding the initiative had been extremely encouraging. In this respect, Metro was proceeding to implement a third phase, which would equip a further 170 vehicles with CCTV by the end of March 2006.

Ilkley Rail Station

Members were informed that following previous complaints the canopies/guttering at Ilkley Rail Station had been cleared by Network Rail, but despite this work the weeds had returned. In this respect, Northern had agreed to monitor the situation and would recommend to Network Rail when further works were required.

Regarding the proposed scheme for an access between Railway Road and the adjacent station platform, the issue relating to additional revenue cost to Northern for the subsequent ongoing cleaning and maintenance costs was still awaiting resolution.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

7. CONSULTATION ITEMS

(a) RETAILING OPTIONS

(b) REAL TIME PASSENGER INFORMATION SYSTEM

The Committee considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on retailing options for prepaid tickets and the issuing of concessionary permits and feedback on the real time passenger information system.

Retailing Options

Members were given a short presentation and it was noted that the Metro range of prepaid tickets were currently sold at bus and rail stations, post offices and various other smaller agencies. Concessionary permits were issued at bus stations and post offices. However, Metro wished to explore whether the current retail network met customer requirements and if more comprehensive and efficient arrangements could be developed. Members' views were sought on the various options for retailing Metro prepaid tickets and issuing concessionary permits.

Members suggested that supermarkets and the use of local authority outlets where people paid their rent/Council Tax be investigated. Discussions also ensued regarding Post Office closures and how the sale of Metro's prepaid tickets/concessionary permits helped to support this vital amenity.

Members expressed the need for extended opening hours at Metro Travel Centres. In response, Metro was very aware of this requirement and were presently investigating the possibility of extending Sunday and Bank Holiday opening hours.

Real Time Passenger Information

Members were given a short presentation and updated on progress with the implementation of the real time passenger information system. It was noted that the first phase of the project had been promoted by the distribution of

leaflets, on bus advertising, information at bus stops and TV and radio advertisements.

Members were asked for feedback on the project to date and for their ideas on subsequent promotion, especially to non-users of public transport. In this respect, Members suggested advertising the system through educational facilities and via mobile phone companies.

It was commented that not all people had use of a computer or mobile phone and it was noted that future developments of the scheme would include the provision of screens at bus stations/shelters, which would give up-to-date real time passenger information.

It was reported that with the limited budget available and current costs it would only be possible to provide displays to a limited number of stops in West Yorkshire. Work was being carried out regarding the development of the displays with a view to reducing their production cost and thereby allow for more bus stops to be included in the scheme. A report would be prepared for a future meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED - That the report and presentations be noted.