

WEST YORKSHIRE INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AUTHORITY
AT A MEETING OF THE CALDERDALE PASSENGER CONSULTATIVE
COMMITTEE HELD IN THE TOWN HALL, HALIFAX
ON FRIDAY 8 OCTOBER 2010

PRESENT: Councillor R Pearson (Chair)

WYITA

K Watson

PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES

Andrew Booth

Myra James

John Myddelton

John Sheppard

Peter Stocks

John Sykes

John Whiteley

CALDERDALE MC

G Carter

B Collins

Also in attendance:

T Singh - CentreBus

R Harris - First

N Walsh - Halifax Bus Company

1. THANKS TO PREVIOUS CHAIR / WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The Chair gave thanks to the previous Chair, Councillor K Watson, for his hard work and commitment to the Committee. He also welcomed the new public representative members to their first meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from public representative Mr P Melling and Mr A Rowe and Northern Rail representative, Mr D Haley.

3. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR

RESOLVED - That Mr J Sykes be elected as Deputy Chair of the Committee.

4. MINUTES

Members commended the minutes of the last meeting, which were particularly useful to those members that did not attend.

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meetings held on 30 March 2010 and 15 April 2010 be noted.

5. MEMBER FEEDBACK

The Committee considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive advising members of the feedback received at the meeting held on 30 March 2010 and to report the action taken.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

6. INFORMATION REPORT

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

Bus Services Changes Summer/Autumn 2010

The Committee was advised of the significant bus service changes that occurred during the Summer and that further changes were planned for the weekend of 30/31 October 2010. A copy of the Changing Times leaflet would be sent to all members when available.

Hebden Bridge and Todmorden Minibus Networks

Members were informed that a contract for the operation of the Hebden Bridge (services A to E) and Todmorden (T services) minibus networks had been awarded to Tyrer Bus of Nelson. The contract changes would become affective from 30/31 October 2010 and would involve minimal changes to the current timetable.

C1 Service - Todmorden Cross Stone

It was reported that Community Transport Calderdale had commenced operation of the new community bus service CT1 in September 2010. The service would provide peak-time links into Todmorden from the Blackshaw Head and Cross Stone areas, with operations funded from the West Yorkshire Rural Transport Partnership.

Timetable Displays at Bus Stops

The Committee welcomed phase three of the project to increase the number of free standing cases at bus stops, which would commence during the current financial year and ensure the provision of 14,000 cases by March 2012.

YourNextBus On-Street Displays

The Committee was informed of the recent problems with on-street displays at bus stops showing scheduled rather than real time predictions. Members were advised that the cause of the problems had been identified and errors rectified following investigations by the supplier.

Discussions ensued regarding the display showing realtime scheduled time rather than realtime information and the confusion this caused to the travelling public. Members felt the issue resulted from drivers not logging onto their ticket machines. Metro officers confirmed that a significant cause of problems related to the loss of aerials from the top of vehicles. However, Metro had recently introduced a new band width, which enabled the use of low profile aerials, which would resolve this longstanding issue.

MetroDay

Members were advised of the new MetroDay ticket that had been introduced in July 2010 and replaced the Adult Bus DayRover. The new ticket cost £5 for all day travel and was valid for all day use. Early indications had shown that the ticket was popular and work was ongoing to ensure that drivers were fully aware of the new product.

It was reported that following the success of the previous year's campaign, the MetroActive initiative had again run throughout August 2010. Data regarding the campaign's success was being collated to inform proposals for future ticketing offerings.

Comments were made about the confusion caused to passengers by the range of operator only and multi-operator tickets.

December 2010 Rail Timetable

It was noted that the national rail timetable, which would operate from 12 December 2010 was being finalised although there were not expected to be any significant changes to local Northern services serving West Yorkshire.

Comment was made regarding the replacement of trains with bus services on the Caldervale Line during the last period. Members reported that the service disruption had been pre-planned and clearly advertised to passengers within the published timetables. However, the weekly notices failed to forewarn passengers of the weekend disruption. Metro officers confirmed that this

issue would be brought to the attention of Northern Rail, although it was acknowledged that rail station staff should have notified passengers accordingly at the time.

Halifax Rail Station

Members were advised that improvements to the platform and concourse areas at Halifax rail station were due to be completed shortly. The improvements secured by this work were welcomed as was the planned installation of a retail kiosk in the station in the future.

Additional Trains Update

It was noted that any additional trains for West Yorkshire were subject to the outcome of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review to be published later in the month.

Concern was expressed at the lack of carriages on the Caldervale line and how extra capacity was essential. Home games for Manchester United and Manchester City were a particular cause of concern. The lack of policing on such services was also an issue and members made comment that operators should fund the provision of officers on these services at such times in order to ensure passengers' safety and security.

Public Spending Cuts

The Committee was updated on the effect the public spending cuts would have on Metro. It was noted that Local Transport Plan funding for Integrated Transport had been reduced by 25% for the current year along with a 50% reduction in the LTP uplift money. Metro had reviewed its capital programme and amended its plans for the year.

The Government announcement to suspend the major schemes process had affected the NGT scheme, Leeds Station Southern Entrance, Castleford Interchange and the Rail Growth Package with only very limited spending taking place to keep the schemes viable.

It was reported that Metro had started to assess the impact of any potential levy reduction in 2011. Metro's levy was the lowest of any ITA and around 50% of its expenditure was in mandatory areas over which it had no discretion, such as concessions and rail. That would mean that in real terms any cut in the levy would impact heavily on areas of discretionary spend. A cut in the levy would require Metro to carefully consider all areas of expenditure including child concessions, tendered services, back office functions and all frontline service areas.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

7. CONSULTATION ITEM - DEVELOPMENT OF THE WEST YORKSHIRE LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 3 (WYLTP3)

Members noted progress on the development of the West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan for 2011 - 2026 and were advised of the forthcoming consultation, which would be held for 10 weeks from late October to mid December 2010.

A presentation was made at the meeting, which provided members with the key issues in the draft LTP3 and gave them the opportunity to pilot an interactive consultation approach.

It was noted that a joint meeting/workshop for all the Passenger Consultative Committees would be arranged during November 2010 to provide further opportunities to help shape the development of LTP3. Members were thanked for their suggestions and were 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 -

- (a)** That the approach set out in the submitted for developing WYLTP3 be noted.
- (b)** That members' views be noted.