

# **AGENDA ITEM NO: 6.**

## **WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY**

### **AT A MEETING OF THE RAIL WORKING GROUP HELD AT WELLINGTON HOUSE ON FRIDAY 29 JULY 2005**

**PRESENT:** Councillor C Townley (Chair)  
  
Councillors C Greaves, K Hussain (to minute 5) M Lyons  
and J Prestage

#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J S King.

#### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no personal or prejudicial interests declared by members at the meeting.

#### **3. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2005 be approved.

#### **4. NORTHERN FRANCHISE PERFORMANCE UPDATE**

The Working Group considered a report on the operating performance of MetroTrain services within West Yorkshire provided by Northern Rail.

Members expressed their concern at the decline in punctuality in recent periods and requested that Northern Rail provide details of the underlying reasons for the non-performance of rail services to include rolling stock break downs, driver shortages, track problems etc. They also requested details of what precautions would be taken to prevent leaf fall problems in the Autumn and the figures for units breaking down in service, all to be provided at the next meeting.

It was reported that a meeting was to be arranged between the Chairman of the Authority and Heidi Mottram of Northern Rail. Malcolm Brown, Area Director East for Northern, had been invited to attend the next

meeting of the Rail Working Group. Network Rail would also be invited to attend the meeting.

**RESOLVED** - That the report be noted.

## **5. CURRENT ISSUES**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive updating members on several issues which included rolling stock, Grand Central railway, fares and the re-specification of the Northern Franchise and new stations.

### Rolling Stock

It was reported that the Yorkshire Forward Board would consider a proposal in September regarding funding for additional rolling stock and a report would be prepared for a future meeting of the Working Group.

### Grand Central Railway

It was noted that the Office of Rail Regulation was considering Grand Central Railway's proposals on the East Coast mainline and a report would be prepared for a future meeting of the Working Group when the outcome of the application was known. Members were advised that Metro had responded to the consultation and emphasised the importance of rail links to London for the whole of West Yorkshire. They had urged the Office of Rail Regulation to consider ways of accommodating both Grand Central Railway's and GNER's proposals.

### Fares and Northern Franchise Re-specification

Members noted that the SRA had employed consultants to undertake initial work on the re-specification of the Northern Franchise and details of the benchmarks were awaited from the DfT. The work included a comparison of fares and early indications were that fares in West Yorkshire were amongst the lowest. The Working Group noted that it was possible that the SRA/DfT would wish to increase fares in the future and it was stressed that action would be needed to ensure that any increase would be for the benefit of West Yorkshire rail travellers. It was therefore proposed to explore revenue yield to fund additional capacity with Northern Rail and DfT. This would also provide an opportunity to explore a MetroCard ticket that would address cross-boundary issues.

### New Stations

It was reported that work focussing on the timetable and rolling stock requirements at the proposed new rail stations at Kirkstall and Apperley

Bridge had been undertaken. Discussions had been held with Leeds City Council regarding the provision of a station at Kirkstall Forge rather than Kirkstall Bridge and it was proposed to undertake further consultation with ward members.

With regard to the proposed new station at Low Moor, it was reported that work was continuing to explore timetable options and try to improve Bradford to Manchester journey times.

The Working Group noted GNER's proposals regarding new stations and a report would be prepared for the next meeting.

### Future Meetings

It was proposed that meetings of the Rail Working Group be scheduled for the following dates commencing at 11.00am:

Tuesday 4 October 2005  
Tuesday 6 December 2005  
Tuesday 14 February 2006  
Tuesday 25 April 2006

### **RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That the proposed meeting dates and times be noted.

## **6. RAILPLAN 6**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on Metro's revised rail strategy, RailPlan 6.

The Working Group congratulated officers on the document and noted that it had been circulated to rail industry partners. It had been made available to the general public via the LTP website and key stakeholders were advised that the document was available for consultation. It was proposed that further consultation be undertaken on the draft RailPlan in parallel with consultation on the provisional LTP. The document would be submitted to the DfT and Government Office Yorkshire and the Humber (GOYH) as a 'draft' rail strategy forming part of the provisional second LTP.

Comment was made that improved security at rail stations, including CCTV, should be considered urgently and it was noted that bus and rail operators had been contacted regarding their involvement in a security review. Members commented that car parking capacity and disabled access at rail stations should also be considered as a separate issue. It was noted that further work would be undertaken on the long-term vision which would include detailed

service changes/enhancements, consideration of future patronage levels, the provision and maintenance of rolling stock and Unitary Development Plans.

The final RailPlan 6 would be developed for submission with the LTP in March 2006.

**RESOLVED -**

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That the attached draft RailPlan 6 be submitted to DfT and GOYH together with the provisional LTP.
- (c) That further work be undertaken as outlined in paragraphs 2.13 to 2.15 of the report.