

CALDERDALE DISTRICT CONSULTATION SUB-COMMITTEE

**MEETING TO BE HELD AT 5.00 PM ON TUESDAY 9 JANUARY 2018
IN THE MAIN HALL, THE KINGS CENTRE, HALIFAX, HX2 2TS**

A G E N D A

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. ENCOURAGING YOUNG PEOPLE TO USE BUSES

This will be a presentation provided by a representative from the West Yorkshire Combined Authority.

3. OPERATOR UPDATES

This will be presented by representatives from the bus and rail operators.

4. MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 10 OCTOBER 2017

Copy attached.

(Pages 1 - 4)

5. INFORMATION REPORT

This will provide the opportunity for questions to be raised from the floor with a focus on matters of wider interest.

(Pages 5 - 10)

6. OPEN FORUM

This will provide the opportunity for questions to be raised from the floor with a focus on matters of wider interest.

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CALDERDALE DISTRICT CONSULTATION SUB-COMMITTEE
HELD ON TUESDAY, 10 OCTOBER 2017 AT COMMITTEE ROOM B, TOWN HALL,
CROSSLEY STREET, HALIFAX, HX1 1UJ**

Present:

Councillor Daniel Sutherland (Chair)	Transport Committee
Councillor Peter Caffrey	Transport Committee
Reid Anderson (Public Representative)	Public Representative
Meg Gillet (Public Representative)	Public Representative
Myra James (Public Representative)	Public Representative
Zaheer Khalil (Public Representative)	Public Representative
Peter Melling (Public Representative)	Public Representative
John Myddelton (Public Representative)	Public Representative
John Sheppard (Public Representative)	Public Representative
Kate Smyth (Public Representative)	Public Representative
John Whiteley (Public Representative)	Public Representative
Geoff Wood (Public Representative)	Public Representative

In attendance:

Mark Fenwick	Arriva Yorkshire
Councillor Paul Bellenger	Calderdale Council
Jenny Marshall	Calderdale Council
Peter Stubbs	Calderdale Council
Daniel Weir	Calderdale Council
Stuart Fillingham	First Group
Oliver Howarth	First Group
Pete Myers	Northern
Elliot Day	Yorkshire Tiger
Diane Groom	WYCA
Erica Ward	WYCA
Andrew Attack	WYCA

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Graham Meiklejohn.

2. Minutes and Feedback from the Meeting held on 4 April 2017

It was noted that Councillor Peter Caffrey attended the meeting on Tuesday 4th April 2017, but was not registered on the attendance section in the minutes.

Resolved - That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 April 2017 be approved, after Councillor Caffrey is noted as present.

3. Introduction to the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and the District Consultation Sub-Committees

The committee was presented with an overview of how the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) is funded and the transport functions and services it provides. Members were also provided with an overview of how the District Consultation Sub-Committees (DCSCS) fit into WYCA's governance structure.

4. Halifax Town Centre Proposals

The Committee were given a presentation by AECOM, who were appointed by Calderdale Council to progress the approved outline proposals for Halifax Town Centre.

The transport infrastructure investments proposed for Halifax Town Centre comprised of three key elements. The first element is the upgrade of the eastern corridor in order to provide enhanced pedestrian and cycle access facilities from the Rail Station into Halifax Town Centre. Upgrades to the northern, southern and western gateways into the town centre are incorporated in the other two elements.

It is anticipated that the full Business Case will be submitted to WYCA in mid-2018 for approval, with a view for all three elements of the programme to be completed for 2021.

A number of questions were raised regarding the bus services currently running through the town centre and which bus stops they would use when the changes to the traffic flow are implemented.

The committee were informed that there will be changes to the bus stop location throughout the town centre and route changes will be communicated with passengers in advance of the implementation of the new routes.

5. Information Report

Bus Services Act

The committee was informed that the Bus Services Act received Royal Assent in April 2017. Draft regulations and secondary legislation have now been issued by the government for consultation.

Bus Service Changes

The committee was informed that a number of service changes were implemented on the weekend of the 22nd and 23rd October. The changes involved the withdrawal of journeys which carried small numbers of passengers and fell below the subsidy per

passenger criteria set by WYCA.

New CCTV Contracts

The committee was informed that a new contract has been let to manage and replace all CCTV installations currently active in bus stations across West Yorkshire. The new system will be digital, rather than analogue, and will provide higher quality live camera feeds and improved evidence gathering facilities.

Real Time Information

The committee was informed that the current realtime information system, which has been in operation since October 2005, will be replaced following the completion of a procurement process. Two suppliers will deliver different aspects of the upgrade, which includes the introduction of a new back-office system and the upgrade of real time information screens.

MCard

The committee was informed that a MCard ticket machine is due to be installed at Halifax Bus Station shortly. The machine will enable MCard users to purchase a range of MCard tickets such as weekly and monthly tickets when the station is open.

May 2018 Northern and TransPennine Timetable Update

It was reported that the first significant timetable change for the Northern and TransPennine Express will be introduced in May 2018. As a result of delayed work from Network Rail, most changes are those delayed from December 2017.

Northern Stations Improvement Fund

The committee was informed that the Northern Stations Improvement Fund is aimed at middle and smaller sized stations and is focused on bringing facilities and standards up to a consistent level. Improvements include investment in areas such as seating, information, lighting and security, as well as additional ticket machines and improved accessibility where applicable. Phase 1 stations, including Halifax, Hebden Bridge, Todmorden and Walsden, are due to be completed by the end of 2017.

Rail Station Car Park Expansions

It was reported that work had started on a programme of car park extensions at a number of rail stations throughout West Yorkshire. Once completed, the car parks will provide additional standard and blue badge parking bays, as well as charging points for Electric Vehicle. Work is planned to begin in Hebden Bridge and Mytholmroyd within the next 18 months.

DfT Accessibility Action Plan

The committee was informed that the Department for Transport is currently seeking

feedback on a draft accessibility action plan which sets out proposals to improve the travel experience for people with disabilities. WYCA are planning to respond to the consultation, which closes on 15 November 2017.

6. Open Forum

Bus Service 539

Councillor Paul Bellenger presented a petition to the committee regarding Service 539, operated by First. The petition, which has been signed by around 1,000 people, asks for the reinstatement of the 539 bus service along a previous section of its route from Bowling Green Road in Stainland to Sowood and Outlane.

It was reported that the changes had made it more difficult for residents of Sowood to access the doctor's surgery and shops in West Vale. In an area which has a large volume of older people, bus services provide a vital lifeline that helps people who struggle get out into the community.

Oliver Howarth informed the committee that the area is served by other bus services that offer access to shops and other services if required. As First would be unable to run the service on a commercial basis, Oliver suggested approaching WYCA for a subsidised service.

It was agreed that discussions will continue outside of the meeting and the outcome will be presented at a future meeting.

Bus Shelters

Geoff Woods suggested that bus stops and shelters in rural areas and in the town centre would benefit from a synthetic design that would be more visually appealing to the public and would encourage more people to use the bus.

Meg Gillet suggested incorporating easier to read signs on bus stops, similar to what is currently in use in London, in order to help people that are not familiar with an area to make the right choice of stop when using the bus to travel.

Jenny Marshall said she would make a note of comments and feedback to the consultation team.

Sowerby Bridge Station Development Plan

John Myddelton asked about the purpose of the Sowerby Bridge Development Plan, and whether any of the proposals within it was in the pipeline for implementation.

Pete Myers informed the committee that each station has a development plan which will be implemented should funding become available.

Director: Dave Pearson, Director of Transport Services



Report to: Calderdale District Consultation Sub-Committee

Date: Tuesday 9 January 2018

Subject: Information Report

1 Purpose

1.1 Matters of information relating to the Calderdale District.

2 Information

Bus Services Act

2.1 The Bus Services Act 2017 was enacted in May 2017. It expands the range of powers available to directly elected mayors and local transport authorities (LTAs) in areas in England outside of London to improve local bus services. The Act provides the following options for LTAs to adapt the approach to local circumstances.

- Franchising - where the LTA issues contracts with bus operators to provide services in the area. The Act provides mayoral LTAs with “London-style” powers to franchise local bus services, application for franchise powers by non-mayoral authorities will need to be made to the Secretary of State.
- Partnership - joint arrangements between LTAs and bus operators. The Act develops the existing Quality Partnerships powers extending their scope to include matters such as fares and frequencies. Two new forms of formal partnership are established “Advanced Quality Partnership Schemes” and “Enhanced Partnerships Schemes”.

2.2 The Bus Services Act also enables data about routes, fares and times across the country to be openly available to app developers, and further facilitates smart multi-modal ticketing schemes.

2.3 On 27 November, the Department for Transport issued guidance (www.gov.uk) on the use of the powers contained in the Act.

2.4 WYCA adopted its Bus Strategy 2040 in August 2017 which sets out a vision for the bus system and a target to grow bus patronage by 25% over the next ten years. Bus 18 is an informal partnership with bus operators seeking to deliver the first stage of the strategy. The success of this initiative will determine the most appropriate use of the powers in the Bus Services Act. A detailed assessment of the DfT guidance is

underway and a paper will be presented to the Transport Committee later in 2018 setting out the options available to the Authority.

Bus 18

2.5 In November, the Transport Committee reviewed progress with the Bus 18 initiative which, to date, has seen

- New Buses – the investment in new buses by First West Yorkshire, Arriva and Transdev in 2017 investment totalled £16.5m.
- Ticketing- a Day Saver smart carnet product and the MCard android app are now available.
- Network Stability – an agreement has been made with bus operators to consult on major bus route changes and to limit changes to six times of the year.
- Air Quality - buses in West Yorkshire now display an Eco Star star rating which identifies their environmental performance. Fleet replacement plans are being agreed with operators.
- Punctuality and Reliability – a £1m programme of work to address bus “punctuality hotspots” is now in progress.
- Customer Service - any customers not happy with their bus journey can claim a free travel voucher from the major bus operators. Customers can call a taxi and claim the cost back from either First, Arriva or Transdev if their last bus doesn’t arrive within 20 minutes of the scheduled time.
- Information – WYCA and bus operators have collaborated on a new design for bus stop information which is being rolled out.

2.6 The following priorities have been identified for 2018:

- Young People – a strongly promoted, discounted “go anywhere” day ticket, and half fare travel for young people in school uniform (without the requirement for a half fare PhotoCard).
- Air Quality – to maximise the funding opportunities provided by central government to facilitate low emission buses.
- Punctuality and reliability – a strong focus on punctuality and reliability with clear visibility of performance against targets.
- Customer Confidence – a campaign to increase public awareness of the recent investment in buses and the steps taken to increase patronage.

Boxing Day Services

2.7 WYCA funded a network of services on Boxing Day on over 70 West Yorkshire bus routes. Half hourly services ran between 9am and 6pm into main city and town

centres, retail locations and hospitals. A verbal update on take up of the services will be given at the meeting.

MCard Fare Increase

- 2.8 The cost of MCard ticketing products increased on 2 January 2018. Across the product range the 2.8% increase is less than the current Consumer Price Index (3.1%).
- 2.9 The increase in the cost of under 19 MCard tickets was only 25p per week, and there was no increase in the cost of the DaySaver tickets.
- 2.10 The price increases for products where rail travel is included are higher, in line with the national increase in rail fares (3.4%) which is based on the Retail Price Index. MCard prices are set by West Yorkshire Ticketing Company Ltd, which comprises representatives of bus and rail operators and WYCA.

Halifax Bus Station

- 2.11 The West Yorkshire Plus Transport Fund programme includes proposals to improve Halifax Bus Station as part of a wider transport infrastructure programme, focused on the A629 Halifax to Huddersfield corridor and Halifax town centre. A feasibility study is under way to look at design options for the bus station, including provision for the future bus station stand capacity requirements (in light of the changes being made in Halifax town centre). The feasibility study will be completed in spring 2018, and there will be opportunities to feed into the proposals in the New Year. Information about the scheme, as well as planned public events, can be found online (www.calderdalenextchapter.co.uk).

TransPennine Route Upgrade

- 2.12 Network Rail reported to the Department for Transport (DfT) on the options for the TransPennine Route Upgrade (TRU) scheme on 14th December 2017. Rail North and partner authorities, including WYCA and Transport for the North, will be developing a North of England viewpoint as to what the scheme scope should be.
- 2.13 It is anticipated that the decision making process on options is likely to commence during early to mid-2018 and be completed in 2019.

New Stations

- 2.14 Following the release of funding for the Leeds Public Transport Package (LPTIP), WYCA has worked with the rail industry, Transport for North and Department for Transport (DfT) colleagues in developing new station proposals. High level options have been developed for Thorpe Park and Millshaw and these will be shared with DfT for consideration in the context of other relevant investment programmes including HS2, Northern Powerhouse Rail (NPR) and TransPennine Route Upgrade (TRU).

- 2.15 The design work for Leeds Bradford Airport station will commence in early 2018, it is envisaged that the Outline Business Case for all station sites should be completed by the end of 2018.

Elland Station

- 2.16 The design work for Elland station will commence in early 2018, it is envisaged that the Outline Business Case for the station should be completed by the end of 2018.

Revenue Protection

- 2.17 Northern Rail are trialling a “penalty fares” scheme on the Airedale and Wharfedale lines. If a passenger gets on a train without a ticket or Promise to Pay voucher at a station where ticket buying facilities are available, they may be liable to pay a penalty fare. The penalty is the greater of £20 or twice the full single from the station where they got on the train to the next station at which the train stops. If the passenger wants to travel beyond the next station they must also pay the relevant fare from that station to their final destination. A Promise to Pay notice is a ticket that must be obtained from the ticket vending machines if customers do not have the facility to pay by credit/debit card. The Promise to Pay notice allows customers to board the train with the intention of exchanging the notice at the first opportunity with a revenue officer, or at the next available booking office. If the trial is successful it will be extended out to other lines in 2018. Posters, flyers and warnings on tickets have been produced to explain the new scheme.

Transport for the North

- 2.18 Transport for the North (TfN) is producing a draft Strategic Transport Plan (STP) for the North, working with Northern Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and Local Transport Authorities including WYCA on the approach and content. The STP will be TfN’s flagship policy document setting out plans for investment in strategic transport in the north in the period up to 2050. TfN will hold a formal public consultation on the draft STP early next year.
- 2.19 TfN has commenced work on their Central Pennines Strategic Development Corridor study. This work will continue through to autumn 2018 and will provide a key input to developing the evidence base for rail and road interventions to shape the STP’s Long Term Investment Programme. WYCA has worked with TfN on the scope of the Central Pennines study to cover journeys between Greater Manchester and East Lancashire and Yorkshire and the North-East.

Department for Transport Accessibility Strategy

- 2.20 The Department for Transport (DfT) recently published a consultation seeking views on a draft Accessibility Action Plan which sets out proposals to improve the travel

experience for people with disabilities. The consultation ended on 22 November, and WYCA's response can be found on the website (www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk).

Transport Budget

- 2.21 On 14 December, the Combined Authority considered its three year Budget Strategy and Business Plan in advance of its approval by the Authority on 1 February 2018. The current funding environment for local government is very difficult and requires WYCA and local Councils to consider a range of options to reduce expenditure. WYCA is reviewing its costs and income across its full range of activities and services. The provision of supported bus services is the largest element of transport expenditure over which WYCA has discretion. It will be necessary to review this provision over the coming three years with a view to ensuring an effective service at a reduced cost to the taxpayer. An area by area review will take place with input from members of this Sub Committee.

Transforming Cities Fund

- 2.22 The November 2017 Budget included an announcement on the 'Transforming Cities Fund', a £1.7 billion fund to support transport investment. The fund will target projects which drive productivity by improving intra-city connectivity, reducing congestion and utilising new mobility services and technology. It was announced that "half of the fund will be allocated via competition for transport projects in cities and the other half will be allocated on a per capita basis to the six combined authorities with elected metro mayors – £74 million for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, £243 million for Greater Manchester, £134 million for Liverpool City Region, £80 million for West of England, £250 million for West Midlands and £59 million for Tees Valley - enabling them to invest in their transport priorities."
- 2.23 WYCA is working with partners from across the city region to consider a range of options for a potential bid to the fund.

Roadworks in Mytholmroyd

- 2.24 Road works are due to commence again in Mytholmroyd on Monday 15th January 2018 and will extend to the end of 2019. Works will be constructed in stages to continue the construction of a permanent flood wall and new road bridge crossing the river Calder at Caldene.
- 2.25 Bus services in the valley will operate a temporary timetable until the end of the works. Meetings have taken place with Calderdale Council and representatives from the Environment Agency to improve traffic management through the site due to very long delays experienced by bus services when temporary traffic lights were in use during the last phasing of works. The Environment Agency has committed to working with Calderdale Council to try and mitigate delays to all traffic by improving the monitoring of the flow and speed of traffic through the road works during peak periods.

CityConnect

- 2.26 Towpath upgrades on the will commence in late January on the Calder Hebble and in April on the Rochdale Canal, both schemes are due to be completed by Autumn 2018.