



## **BRADFORD DISTRICT CONSULTATION SUB-COMMITTEE**

**MEETING TO BE HELD AT 5.00 PM ON MONDAY, 23 OCTOBER 2017  
IN COMMITTEE ROOM 1, CITY HALL, BRADFORD**

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### **A G E N D A**

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**2. MINUTES AND FEEDBACK FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 31 MARCH 2017**

Copy attached.

(Pages 1 - 6)

**3. INTRODUCTION TO THE WEST YORKSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY AND THE DISTRICT CONSULTATION SUB-COMMITTEES**

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

**4. INFORMATION REPORT**

To consider the attached report.

(Pages 7 - 18)

**5. OPEN FORUM**

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

**6. NEXT MEETING**

Monday 22 January 2018, Committee Room 1, City Hall, Bradford, 5pm

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
BRADFORD DISTRICT CONSULTATION SUB-COMMITTEE  
HELD ON FRIDAY 31 MARCH 2017 AT THE CITY HALL, BRADFORD**

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**PRESENT:** Councillor Taj Salam (Chair)

**WYCA TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

Councillor Abid Hussain  
Councillor Hassan Khan  
Councillor Rebecca Poulsen

**PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES**

Fred Gilbert                      John Prestage  
Andrew Jewsbury                Barrie Rigg  
Gareth Logan                      Andrew Wowk  
Graham Peacock

**BRADFORD COUNCIL**

Councillor Rizwana Jamil

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE**

Mark Fenwick	-	Arriva
Oliver Howarth	-	First
Mohammed Raja	-	First
Pete Myers	-	Northern
Barry Cliff	-	TLC
Neale Wallace	-	WYCA
Andrew Atack	-	WYCA
Chris Rickaby	-	Observer

**38. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from public representatives Peter Ketley and Keith Renshaw and Colin Brushwood, First.

**39. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2017 be noted.

**40. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION**

Members were invited to raise questions with a focus on matters of wider interest and a time limited question and answer session was held. The following issues were raised:

### Train Tickets

Members asked whether the ticket barriers at Leeds Station accepted the new paper based train tickets. It was reported that the gates now take the new type of tickets and that the traditional tickets had been replaced to make the ticket more user friendly. Pete Myers added that the paper based ticket will be reduced in size in the future.

### Permanent Concessionary Passes

Members asked whether it would be possible to issue a permanent pass to older people, rather than renewing every five years. Neale Wallace informed the Committee that it is a government requirement to renew the passes for data cleansing purposes.

Members raised concerns regarding the application process for disabled passes and asked if anything could be done to improve the process. The Committee were informed that the verification process is managed by each local authority but steps were being taken to standardise.

## **41. FEEDBACK REPORT**

The Committee considered a report advising members of the feedback received at the meeting held on 13 January 2017 and to report the action taken.

At the last meeting members were consulted on Bus 18 and the future of the District Consultation Sub-Committees. The key points raised were outlined in the submitted report.

### Bus 18

It was reported that the Bus 18 initiative was formally launched on Friday 24 March 2017 in Bradford. The initiative includes the introduction of the ECOStars scheme, which allocates a start rating for each bus depending on its environmental credentials. The aim of the ECOStars scheme is to help reduce fuel consumption and harmful emissions on commercial vehicle fleets.

The initiative also allows passengers who are not entirely happy with their journey to claim a free travel voucher from First West Yorkshire, Arriva Yorkshire or Transdev and claim the cost of a taxi if their last bus doesn't arrive within 20 minutes of the scheduled time.

### Future of District Consultation Sub-Committees

Members were advised that the meeting was the last in the current meeting cycle and that WYCA are planning to expand the representation to include a wider range of interested parties and groups during the next recruitment phase. The meetings

will also involve an open forum session where members of the public can raise issues from the floor.

Members suggested that traditional methods of marketing the Committee should still be used when going out to recruit new members, these include ads in local newspapers and printed materials on buses.

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

## **42. INFORMATION REPORT**

The Committee considered a report on information regarding current developments and issues affecting the Bradford District.

### Boxing Day Services

It was reported that 65,000 passenger journeys were made on Boxing Day, which is an increase of 19% from 2015. Feedback from a customer survey on the Boxing Day services was generally positive.

### Keighley to Halifax Bus Service

It was reported that no bus operators were willing to operate this service on a commercial basis, however, tenders were received from bus operators willing to provide a service at public expense. An evaluation of these proposals has taken place to assess if there is a business case for the provision of a service. The outcome will be presented at a future meeting.

### Bus Stop Displays

Members were advised that following a review of how information is presented on bus stop displays, a redesign process had taken place and that the modifications will be rolled out in the September 2017 service change.

### Journey Planner

It was reported that a new customer journey planner was launched on 2 March which has a range of features designed to help customers plan their public transport journeys in West Yorkshire.

Members asked whether the journey planner collected search data in order to establish the most searched for routes throughout West Yorkshire, the data could then be used to improve further service changes.

### Bus Services Bill

It was reported that the Bus Services Bill is continuing through the parliamentary process and that the Second Reading took place in the House of Commons in early

March 2017. The second reading is an opportunity for MPs to talk about the principles of the legislation, and is a key opportunity to demonstrate that there is support for the Bill.

### Trojan Bus

Members were advised that following introduction of a 'Trojan Bus' in the Buttershaw and Holmewood areas of the city, incidents involving anti-social behaviour has reduced significantly. The project is part of the 'Safer Travel' initiative in which WYCA work with the West Yorkshire Police in order to reduce crime.

### Supreme Court Ruling

It was reported that the Supreme Court's decision found that bus operators are under obligation to apply 'pressure' to non-wheelchair users to vacate the designated wheelchair space. Local bus operators are currently ensuring that their policies, procedures and guidance to their staff reflect the Supreme Court ruling.

### West Yorkshire Low Emissions Strategy

Members were advised that the West Yorkshire Low Emission Strategy (WYLES) was formally adopted by WYCA at the Transport Committee meeting that took place on Friday 24 February 2017. The strategy was jointly developed with the five West Yorkshire District Councils and Public Health England with the aim to reduce the harmful emissions from transport and other sources that impact on health and the environment.

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

## **43. CONSULTATION REPORT**

### **Bus Strategy – Presentation**

It was reported that following the public consultation that took place between July and October 2016, over 3300 responses were received on the draft Bus Strategy for West Yorkshire. An independent analysis of the responses has been completed and is available in a report on the WYCA website ([www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/ytys](http://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/ytys)).

The presentation also gave an overview of consultation responses, proposals for amendments to the strategy and the next steps.

Members were thanked for their comments and suggestions and were asked to forward any further comments on the questionnaire provided at the meeting or by email to: [erica.ward@westyorks-ca.gov.uk](mailto:erica.ward@westyorks-ca.gov.uk).

**RESOLVED** - That members' feedback be noted.

## **FEEDBACK FROM THE MEETING ON 31 MARCH 2017**

Appendix to advise members of the feedback received at the last meeting of the Committee and to report actions taken.

### Journey Planner

Members asked whether the journey planner collected search data in order to establish the most searched for routes throughout West Yorkshire, the data could then be used to improve further service changes.

WYCA uses google analytics to record usage information of the journey planner, this includes:

- Number of visits to the journey planner via a mobile device or desktop
- Number of visits to each individual timetable page e.g. How many page views of the number 1 service or number 96 service

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**Director:** Dave Pearson, Director of Transport Services



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**Report to:** Bradford District Consultation Sub-Committee

**Date:** 23 October 2017

**Subject:** Information Report

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## **1 Purpose**

1.1 Matters of information relating to the Bradford District.

## **2 Information**

### **Introduction to West Yorkshire Combined Authority**

2.1 The West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) is the statutory transport authority for Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield. WYCA combines its transport function with a wider economic development role working with the business sector through the Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership (LEP). WYCA is a governing board of nine political leaders, plus the chair of the LEP. The Chair of WYCA is Cllr Hinchcliffe, Leader of Bradford Council. It is supported by an officer organisation that undertakes their Boards' policies and actions led by Ben Still, Managing Director.

2.2 In the transport field, WYCA works very closely with the District Councils who are the statutory highway authorities for their respective areas. WYCA has specific responsibilities with regard to bus services, concessionary travel and public transport information across all of West Yorkshire and provides day-to-day services under the Metro brand name such as bus stations and travel centres, the Metroline call centre, the Metro websites and the yournextbus real-time service. It works closely with bus and rail operators together with Government and national agencies including Highways England and Network Rail. WYCA manages a number of public funds aimed at investing in the transport infrastructure, most notably the £1bn West Yorkshire plus Transport Fund aimed at reducing congestion, improving the flow of freight and making it easier for people to commute to and from expected major growth areas.

2.3 Transport for the North is being established as a regional transport a body developing and implementing a co-ordinated strategy for investment in transport across the North. Rail North is the rail franchising function within Transport for the North. The CA is represented by elected members on the governing boards of Transport for the North and Rail North.

### **Bus Services Act**

2.4 The Bus Services Act received Royal Assent in April 2017. It enables Mayoral Combined Authorities to adopt powers to award franchises for the operation of

buses in their area. Franchising enables a Combined Authority to specify how bus services are delivered, and would make it responsible for the financial performance of the bus service including the setting of fares. As WYCA is not a mayoral authority, the Secretary of State would need to issue regulations to enable franchising in West Yorkshire. The Act also sets out a number of options for formal partnerships between Transport Authorities and bus operators; these powers are available to WYCA. Draft regulations and secondary legislation have been issued by government for consultation, and WYCA is making input into the consultation. Firm decisions regarding the use of these new powers will be taken by WYCA when these regulations are in place.

- 2.5 The CA adopted a Bus Strategy earlier in 2017 following extensive consultation during 2016, including the involvement of this committee. This sets out what is required from the bus service to deliver inclusive growth across our region. WYCA will determine the most appropriate way of using the new powers in the Bus Services Act to deliver its Bus Strategy.

### **Transport for the North Integrated and Smart Travel**

- 2.6 Transport for the North (TfN) is working in partnership with operators, transport authorities and the Department for Transport to deliver a scheme that will make it easier for passengers to travel seamlessly using their preferred payment method, confident that they have paid the cheapest possible on the day fare for their journey. TfN plans to set up a scheme whereby customers use contactless cards and devices each time they travel and will be charged the cheapest price for the combination of journeys they make in the day. The programme is in three phases; enabling smart ticketing on rail, improving information about the cost of travel and creating an account based ticketing scheme using contactless devices.
- 2.7 In West Yorkshire, MCard is the most extensive smart travel scheme in the North. The MCard team will be working closely with TfN and with bus operators to advance smart ticketing. During 2018, it is anticipated that most major bus operators will enable their ticket machines to accept payment using contactless bank cards. This will be a major step towards the TfN vision for smart travel.

### **Bus Service changes**

- 2.8 In line with the current financial position for local authorities, West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) set a budget for supported bus services in 2017/18 which was reduced from the previous year, necessitating a reduction in services. To facilitate this, the WYCA Transport Committee approved a set of actions at its meeting in July which will result changes to the bus network which will take effect from the weekend of the 22nd and 23rd October. These changes will involve withdrawal of journeys which currently carry small numbers of passengers and fall below the subsidy per passenger criteria set by WYCA. Whilst some communities may experience a loss or reduction in evening and weekend services, no community will lose access to a bus service during the daytime Monday to Friday.

2.9 As well as changes to supported services, there are a number of changes to commercial services on 22nd October. Of note are:

- First are making changes to commercial service 607 (the section between Bradford and Holme Wood will now be renumbered 608).
- Keighley and District are also making a number of minor changes to commercial services in Keighley.

2.10 Details of all October services changes are available on the web site: [www.wymetro.com](http://www.wymetro.com).

### **Keighley to Halifax Bus Service**

2.11 In 2016 the Committee received a petition from residents seeking restoration of bus links between Keighley and Halifax. WYCA approached bus operators seeking their interest in operating the service without public subsidy. All operators stated that they would need subsidy to provide the service. A decision as to whether this service could be supported has been delayed pending the ongoing work to reduce the cost to the local taxpayer of bus service support. A final decision on whether funding for this service can be found will be made later in 2017.

### **Christmas Bus Services**

2.12 Bus Operators will adopt the usual operational pattern over the Christmas period;

<b>Date</b>	<b>Service Pattern</b>
Sunday 24th December - Christmas Eve	Sunday service until 6pm
Monday 25th December - Christmas Day	No service
Tuesday 26th December - Boxing Day	Service 757 plus Boxing Day services
Wednesday 27th - Friday 29th December	Saturday service
Saturday 30th December	Saturday service
Sunday 31st December - New Year's Eve	Sunday service until 6pm
Monday 1st January - New Year's Day	No service except limited 757 service
Tuesday 2nd January	Normal service resume

2.13 A limited number of bus services will be operating on Boxing Day. This will be broadly similar to 2016, which was hugely successful with over 65,000 passenger journeys made. Details of services will be available from late November/ early December.

### **New CCTV contracts**

2.14 WYCA has let a new contract to manage and replace all its CCTV installations across West Yorkshire. The new system will be digital and fibre (rather than analogue) and will provide higher quality live camera feeds and improved evidence gathering

facilities. The system will also allow WYCA to provide WIFI for customers in the bus stations.

### **Bradford Interchange Access Improvements**

- 2.15 The main pedestrian access off Bridge Street is subject to a number of competing demands resulting in conflicts between vehicles, public drop off and pick up, deliveries and general public access. In the longer term it is intended that the Bradford Stations Master Plan will be able to address these issues through new layouts and redevelopment proposals.
- 2.16 In the meantime a short term remedial scheme is proposed to address these issues. The preferred option aims to improve access and reduce conflicts by different users by providing clear pedestrian crossings across Greenwood Court and the vehicular entrance/exit to the short stay car park, extending footpath widths to the interchange entrance and providing additional barriers and safety bollards, relocation of drop off and pick up area and the creation of a dedicated taxi rank within the central area with its own access and waiting area. The whole area of roadway will be resurfaced and re-marked and the existing planters will be re-used.
- 2.17 A programme for the works is currently being developed and work is likely to commence during February 2018 and is planned to be completed by end of March 2018. Work will be phased in order to maintain pedestrian routes to the interchange and to keep the taxi rank operational.

### **Timetable Displays**

- 2.18 Bus 18 is a programme of short term initiatives being developed jointly by WYCA and the bus operators to benefit bus passengers. As part of Bus 18, and following feedback from customers, WYCA has changed the layout of timetable displays at bus stops and shelters. The new displays include clearer information, bus operator branding and, on larger displays, schematic maps.

### **Real Time Information**

- 2.19 The current Yorkshire-wide “YourNextBus” real-time system has been in operation since October 2005. The original contract for the operation and development of the system was for a ten year period. Following a procurement process, two new suppliers will now deliver different aspects of the on-going system, including the introduction of a new back-office system and the upgrade of real time information screens.
- 2.20 There are currently 1050 real time information screens across West Yorkshire, of which 310 are the larger LED displays and 740 are the smaller displays.
- 2.21 The screen upgrade project will replace the 740 smaller units with clearer 4-line LED screens, improving the visibility and accessibility of the displays. All screens will be fitted with the ‘REACT talking sign’ system which uses Bluetooth or a fob system to

activate audio announcements of the real time information displayed in the screen. The upgrade and installation of the new screens is planned to start later this year.

### **Touchless Ticketing Trial**

- 2.22 In February WYCA and The Keighley Bus Company began 'touchless ticketing' trial on the Shuttle 662 route which runs between Keighley and Bradford.
- 2.23 This project uses Bluetooth beacons, a smartphone App, and a back office to provide a "best fare" bus ticketing and payment system. When arriving at a bus stop the user generates a secure ticket through the App, which is shown to the driver. In the background, the App detects and records beacons at the boarding point, on the bus, and at the alighting point. Once the journey is completed, the cost of the journey is calculated and deducted from the users App account.
- 2.24 The original trial was extended to cover all Keighley Bus Company services in Keighley from the 17th July.
- 2.25 Since the trial was launched in February 2017, 170 users have downloaded the app and the project has 112 active users (users making one or more journeys) who have made 4,928 journeys in total. The back office linked to the App calculates the length of journey taken and 'caps' prices at the best value price over the course of the week.
- 2.26 Customers using the app have benefited from not needing cash to buy a ticket, faster boarding times and not having to decide in advance what is the best value ticket for their journey as the app works all this out for them.
- 2.27 The trial has now ended and will be evaluated.

### **MCard**

- 2.28 MCard ticket machines were launched at Leeds, Bradford, Huddersfield, Pontefract and Castleford bus stations in April. The machines enable smartcard MCard users to purchase a range of MCard tickets such as weekly and monthly tickets whenever the bus station is open, including evenings and Sundays when Travel Centres are closed. Further ticket machines are planned for Dewsbury, Keighley, Halifax and Wakefield bus stations with an additional one at Bradford Interchange.
- 2.29 An MCard app has been launched for android phones. The app is available on the Google play store and enables MCard users to buy, and then load tickets direct to their MCard from their android phone. Further information on MCard is available at: [www.m-card.co.uk](http://www.m-card.co.uk)

### **Senior Travel Passes**

- 2.30 Under the English National Concessionary Transport Scheme Senior Pass-holders can enjoy free, off-peak bus travel throughout England as well as half-fare, off-peak train

travel in West Yorkshire. Senior Passes are available to all those of pensionable age and there are currently over 355,000 passes being used in West Yorkshire.

- 2.31 Over the next few months, 300,000 Senior Passes across West Yorkshire will come up for renewal. To make it easier for people to order new Passes or renew their existing ones, West Yorkshire Combined Authority has introduced online applications. Online Pass renewals can be carried out up to three months before the expiry date. People can still apply for Senior Passes at Bus Station Travel Centres and can renew existing ones up to one month before their current Pass's expiry date.

## **HS2**

- 2.32 In July 2017 the Department for Transport reaffirmed its support for HS2 Phase 2b and confirmed the preferred route for the full Y network – the Eastern Leg to Leeds and the Western Leg to Manchester. This enables preparations for the third HS2 hybrid Bill, which is intended to go to Parliament in autumn 2019 and will enable construction to commence in 2023 with train services to Leeds and Manchester commencing in 2033.

## **Northern Powerhouse Rail (NPR)**

- 2.33 Northern Powerhouse Rail (NPR) is a new east-west rail link being developed by Transport for the North (TfN). NPR is designed to transform the northern economy and meet the needs of people and business through improved connectivity between the key economic centres of the North. The programme promises radical changes in service patterns, and target journey times.
- 2.34 NPR work is currently focused on “HS2 touchpoints”, which aims to ensure that the design of HS2 makes provision for the physical infrastructure necessary for NPR to use sections of the HS2 route where appropriate.
- 2.35 The next phase of NPR work will focus on the overall NPR network, with a preferred network “shape” expected to emerge in around February 2018.

## **TransPennine Route Upgrade**

- 2.36 The Trans-Pennine Route Upgrade (TRU) is a Department for Transport project being developed by the rail industry and led by Network Rail. It is part of the ‘Great North Rail Project’ and aims deliver faster, longer, more frequent and more reliable services across the north of England.
- 2.37 Network Rail is currently working on the development of potential infrastructure options for the TransPennine Route Upgrade and will submit these options to the Department for Transport (DfT) for consideration in December 2017, for a decision in spring 2018.

### **East Midlands Rail Franchise**

- 2.38 The East Midlands (EM) rail franchise is currently operated by East Midlands Trains (EMT), a subsidiary of the Stagecoach Group. It provides intercity services along the Midland Mainline out of London St Pancras, plus regional services in the East Midlands.
- 2.39 The current East Midlands franchise ends in 2019, and will be re-let with the new operator to take charge from August 2019. The DfT ran a consultation from 20 July 2017 to 11 October 2017 seeking views on priorities for the next East Midlands franchise. WYCA has responded to the consultation.

### **May 2018 Northern and TransPennine Timetable**

- 2.40 The first significant timetable change for the Northern (NT) and Trans-Pennine Express (TP) franchises is to be introduced in May 2018. Most of the May 2018 changes were delayed from December 2017 as a result of delays to Network Rail works (especially electrification) elsewhere leading to a nationwide shortage of suitable diesel trains to run the extra services.

### **Calder Valley Line**

- 2.41 The Calder Valley line is a two-track railway line running from Manchester Victoria to Leeds, connecting Preston, Blackburn, Accrington and Burnley with Halifax, Bradford and Leeds via Hebden Bridge. Over the coming years a series of improvements will be delivered on the Calder Valley line to reduce journey times and improve connectivity and commuter travel services between the key towns and cities. Improvements include upgrades to the tracks and signalling system of the line and the new station at Low Moor, which opened in April 2017.

### **Kirkstall Forge and Apperley Bridge Rail Stations**

- 2.42 Monitoring and evaluation work is being carried out to assess the performance of Kirkstall Forge and Apperley Bridge rail stations. The work includes household surveys to determine if commuters have changed their travel behaviour and rail platform surveys to gather information on reasons for travel, and how the journey was made prior to the stations opening.

### **Low Moor Station**

- 2.43 Low Moor rail station opened in April 2017, providing rail services between Bradford and Halifax. Northern rail services are operating one train per hour in either direction. Grand Central services on the West Riding route (between Bradford Interchange and London Kings Cross stations) also call at Low Moor. Passenger numbers using the station have steadily grown since April, and passenger surveys have recently been undertaken to seek feedback. The results of the feedback are being analysed and further information will be provided at a future meeting.

- 2.44 There is an outstanding issue with cycle access to the south platform of the station from the Spen Valley Greenway, and it is anticipated that this will be resolved in the near future.

### **Northern Stations Improvement Fund**

- 2.45 Within the Northern Franchise there is a Stations Improvement Fund of £38m. The majority of money is aimed at middle and smaller sized stations and is focussed on bringing facilities and standards up to a consistent level, looking at areas such as seating, information, lighting and security. Station investment will also include additional ticket machines and improved accessibility. The project is progressing well with 36 stations due to be completed by the end of 2017 as part of phase one, with the remainder phased for implementation up until March 2020. The following stations in the Bradford district are included in the programme:

#### Phase 1

- Baildon
- Bradford Interchange

#### Phase 2

- Ben Rhydding
- Bingley
- Bradford Forster Square
- Burley-in-Wharfedale
- Crossflatts
- Frizinghall
- Ilkley
- Keighley
- Saltaire
- Shipley
- Steeton and Silsden

### **Rail Station Car Park Expansions**

- 2.46 Work has started on a £32m programme of car park extensions at a number of rail stations throughout West Yorkshire, using land owned by Network Rail or local authorities. Increased car parking capacity will enhance accessibility to the rail network and support sustainable employment growth in the main urban centres. The car parks will provide: additional standard and blue badge parking bays, CCTV, lighting, drainage and future proofing for Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points.



- 2.47 Stations included in the programme are as follows:
- South Elmsall – completed
  - Fitzwilliam - construction has started
- 2.48 Work should start on the following stations within the next 12-18 months, subject to approvals:
- Hebden Bridge
  - Normanton
  - Mirfield
  - Mytholmroyd
  - Shipley
  - Steeton & Silsden
  - Apperley Bridge
- 2.49 The following stations are at initial feasibility stage:
- Ben Rhydding
  - Guiseley
  - Morley
  - Moorthorpe
  - Outwood

#### **New and Refurbished Trains**

- 2.50 Northern recently launched their tenth refurbished train as part of an ongoing refurbishment programme. Refurbished trains have a new interior including new floor coverings, repainted carriages and new seating; they are fully accessible and have free Wi-Fi. New LED lighting has also been fitted, and refurbished toilets include improved baby changing facilities.
- 2.51 TransPennine Express (TPE) have also launched a phased refurbishment programme, with two newly refurbished 185 trains now operating on the network, with further refurbished trains to be added to the network on average every ten days. The upgrades include new seats throughout, leather seats in first class, standard plug and USB sockets at every pair of seats in standard and first class, as well as bigger tables to allow more space for laptops and other devices. Free high speed Wi-Fi will also be available.
- 2.52 Between 2018 and 2020, TPE will introduce three new train fleets, comprising of 13 five carriage Mark 5A coaches and 12 five carriage Class 397 'Civity' electric trains, and 19 five carriage Class 802 bi-mode trains. Each train will feature comfortable seating, free Wi-Fi, plug sockets at every pair of seats, real-time travel information and an on-board media server, allowing the streaming of the latest TV shows and

films. The first of the Mark 5A five carriage trains will enter service in around nine months' time, enabling existing class 185 trains to be increased from three to six carriages incrementally.

### **DfT Accessibility Action Plan**

- 2.53 The Department for Transport is seeking feedback on a draft accessibility action plan which sets out proposals to improve the travel experience for people with disabilities. The action plan covers a range of transport modes including planes, trains, buses and taxis. The plan also considers ways public spaces could be improved to make them more accessible for people with disabilities.
- 2.54 Consultation on the Accessibility Action Plan closes on 15 November 2017, and a final version of the Accessibility Action Plan will be published in 2018. WYCA will be responding to the consultation.
- 2.55 Individuals and groups who would like to respond to the consultation can find more information online: [www.gov.uk/government/consultations/draft-transport-accessibility-action-plan](http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/draft-transport-accessibility-action-plan)

### **AccessBus**

- 2.56 Grant funding from the Department for Transport is being used to fit the older AccessBus vehicles in Bradford, Leeds and Wakefield with catalytic convertors to bring their emissions down to the equivalent of Euro 6 standards. Later this year the buses will also be refurbished inside and out, with improvements including electronic destination blinds and CCTV.

### **CityConnect**

- 2.57 Works are planned to start on site on the Canal Road Corridor superhighway route in late autumn 2017. The project is scheduled for completion in summer 2018.
- 2.58 It is anticipated that the Airedale Greenway project, providing towpath upgrades on the Leeds-Liverpool Canal into Silsden, will start on site in early autumn 2017 and be completed by early 2018.
- 2.59 CityConnect is currently working on the following projects across West Yorkshire which aim to help people get to work, or access employment opportunities and apprenticeships by bike or on foot.
- CityConnect Cycles is a project delivered in partnership with Sustrans and Bike Right!, and is a programme of free adult cycle training available across West Yorkshire, for people in or seeking work.
  - CityConnect is working with businesses across West Yorkshire to help them become Bike Friendly. Fifty businesses have already taken part, with activities including bike maintenance courses and improved bike parking, funded through

the Cycling and Walking to Work Fund, a £1.5m grant awarded to WYCA in April 2017.

- CityConnect Walking, in partnership with Living Streets, aims to promote walking and active travel to employers, job centres and apprentices, as well as working with colleges and higher education providers. The project was launched in August 2017 with a walk that covered the South Bank regeneration site in Leeds. Further walks across the districts are planned, and a Walk Friendly Work places initiative was launched in September.

2.60 City Connect also promoted a number of cycling campaigns during September, with people across the region encouraged to get back on their bikes. The campaign 'Simpler/Speedier than you think' aimed at people who don't currently cycle for work and addressed perceived barriers to cycling. The 'Love to Ride' cycle challenge has also ran throughout September and incentivised employees to cycle more.

2.61 Further information is available at: [www.cyclecityconnect.co.uk](http://www.cyclecityconnect.co.uk).

### **Road Network Management**

2.62 Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield Councils have signed a Memorandum of Understanding that will see them increase their partnership working and collaboration on the routes that make up West Yorkshire's Key Route Network. The Key Route Network is made up of more than 410 miles of mainly A-roads in West Yorkshire that are among the most important – and most congested – in the county. Representing just 7% of West Yorkshire's local authority roads, they carry 60% of all vehicles.

2.63 The Understanding aims to adopt a consistent, collaborative and strategic approach to improve road network management and performance. This will boost economic growth in the long term and help support the county's low emissions strategy as well as getting travel information to road users as quickly as possible.

2.64 Behind this is a Key Network Group, made up of representatives from all five councils and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, which will develop investment and priorities across the road network. This will include making use of smart technology to more proactively manage traffic; providing improved up-to-date traffic information to road users and making improvements to congestion hotspots.

### **Greengates Junction Scheme**

2.65 A junction improvements scheme is planned at Greengates New Line/Harrogate Road, to improve traffic flows. The scheme is currently at consultation stage with input from bus operators and WYCA. Timescales to commence work on site are still to be agreed.

## **3 Recommendations**

3.1 That this report is noted.

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