

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
KIRKLEES DISTRICT CONSULTATION SUB-COMMITTEE  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 23 OCTOBER 2019 AT TOWN HALL,  
DEWSBURY**

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**Present:**

Councillor James Homewood (Chair)	Transport Committee
Councillor Martyn Bolt	Transport Committee
Ian Bangay (Public Representative)	Public Representative
Bruce Bird (Public Representative)	Public Representative
Mark Denton (Public Representative)	Public Representative
Shaun Jordan (Public Representative)	Public Representative
David Quarmby (Public Representative)	Public Representative
Ian Roper (Public Representative)	Public Representative
Mark Wylie (Public Representative)	Public Representative

**In attendance:**

Graham Meiklejohn	Transpennine Express
Pete Myers	Northern
Dwayne Wells	Arriva Yorkshire
Stuart Fillingham	First Group
Will Pearson	First Group
Ben Maxfield	Arriva
Dot Freeman	Better Buses Kirklees
Jackie Hardaker	Better Buses Kirklees
Jean Goodison	Better Buses Kirklees
Councillor Manisha Kaushik	Kirklees Council
Helen Ellerton	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Janette Woodcock	West Yorkshire Combined Authority

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence was received from Public Representatives Anne Baldwin, Christopher Jones, Jean Kirby, Mike Still and Kelvin Waites

**2. Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests at the meeting.

### **3. Exempt Information - Possible exclusion of the press and public**

There were no items requiring the exemption of the press and public.

### **4. Open Forum**

A request was received from Dot Freeman representing Better Buses Kirklees to speak at the Open Forum.

The Open Forum item has been established so that members of the public, in addition to those formally appointed to the committees, can come along and raise any transport related issues. The aim of the Open Forum is that officers from the West Yorkshire Combined Authority in attendance can respond to any questions on the day and if not possible, take them away and provide a response by email.

Dot Freeman, Jean Goodison and Jackie Hardaker from Better Buses Kirklees raised their concerns as follows:

- Bring the bus services back in the public domain (one body running the services).
- Planned and co-ordinated routes across Kirklees linking with wider areas in West/South Yorkshire which all the bus companies align to and agreed.
- Profits from popular routes can subsidise areas less busy.
- Improve access to rural transport and increase access on evenings and weekends.
- Introduce a simple one ticket scheme on all buses. A clearer ticketing system so return tickets can be used on any bus (include a cap on spend).
- Improve access for disabilities on all levels.
- One rule regarding access for prams, bikes etc.
- Improve routes and access on and off buses. Faster routes create higher usage. Look at long term infrastructures and geographical areas when planning.
- Information and communication to be improved at all levels.
- Cleaner and more environmentally transport stock to safeguard climate change.

The Chair asked that agenda item 9. Consultation Items (West Yorkshire Bus Alliance), be discussed at this point in proceedings.

### **5. Consultation Items**

The Sub-Committee was provided with a brief presentation by Helen Ellerton, West Yorkshire Combined Authority, on the West Yorkshire Bus Alliance which aims to put customers at the heart of improving services, keeping business moving and developing a sustainable bus network. The Alliance brings together the Combined Authority, the local authorities of West Yorkshire and the bus operators including Arriva, First, Transdev and small operators.

Members gave their feedback and Helen Ellerton answered questions from representatives from Better Buses Kirklees and concerns from public representatives.

Members raised specific concerns about what would happen to the Bus Alliance when/if the First and Arriva operations were sold. The view was that the legal requirements surrounding the alliance may mean that the current agreements with the operators may not be met by new ones.

The importance is what is the right way forward for West Yorkshire and to work with operators to deliver in partnership and to realise the customer benefit early.

**Resolved:** That the information report and the Sub-Committee's feedback be noted.

## **6. Appointment of Deputy Chair**

The Chair had received one application from Mark Denton for the position of Deputy Chair.

**Resolved:** That Mark Denton be confirmed as the Deputy Chair.

## **7. Minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2019**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2019 be approved.

## **8. Chair's Update**

Councillor Kaushik introduced Councillor James Homewood as the new Chair of the Sub-Committee as she has now moved to a new role as Deputy Chair of the Transport Committee.

Councillor Kaushik announced that sadly Public Representative, John Appleyard, who had served as Deputy Chair of the Sub-Committee for several years had passed away. Members expressed their deepest sympathy and observed a one minute's silence.

## **9. Operator Updates**

Operators were invited to give their updates to the Sub-Committee:

### Arriva

- Arriva re-confirmed their commitment to the Bus Alliance and the view that in order to increase patronage it would be necessary to increase service frequency.
- Reported that West Yorkshire had been recognised as providing the most punctual service area in the country and had a dependable good service.
- Updated regarding the sale and said that bids had been invited to purchase. They will still be Arriva and will still be in operation.

## First

- Improving timetables.
- Retrofit programme had been completed with nearly 200 buses for key corridors.
- A post-implementation review was underway following the September timetable changes to inform the December timetable changes.
- There is to be a fare increase which is not ideal but necessary due to increasing fuel costs.

Members of the Sub-Committee had the following questions and comments following the updates:

- What were the arrangements regarding fare concessions for the 60-67 age group? Members felt that a gap still existed in this area.
- Clarification was requested on the policy of the bus companies for transporting bicycles, prams, wheelchairs.

## TransPennine

- New trains have now been introduced into the rolling stock and have provided additional capacity. Customer feedback has been good.
- Winter timetables will shortly be introduced.
- Dewsbury now has two trains per hour to Manchester and Manchester airport.
- Summer 2019 has seen a better performance than 2018.
- There have been issues with infrastructure and a high impact due to delayed trains
- Impact from key work being undertaken by Network Rail and the corridor is run to maximum performance.
- TransPennine is working closely with Network Rail.
- Friends of Dewsbury Station have been undertaking flower planting.
- New toilets and baby changing facilities have been provided along with an additional shelter at Dewsbury Station with funding from the West Yorkshire Combined Authority. The provision of both facilities has been much appreciated by rail passengers using Dewsbury Station.

Members of the Sub-Committee had the following questions and comments following the update from TransPennine:

- It was considered that the new trains were louder. TransPennine responded to say that the trains comply with European standards, but agreed they were louder.
- The noise had an impact on announcements near the proximity of the engine.
- At Dewsbury Station the barriers were an obstacle for the visually impaired and it could be difficult to get through with a guide dog as the gates are not manned all the time. Transpennine appreciated the

problem, and this would be looked into further. All employees had been on a disability awareness course but will ensure that the Station Manager at Dewsbury is aware so that assistance can be provided.

- Regarding changes in strategies, Network Rail are the organisation to contact.
- The performance has been better between Manchester and Leeds.
- TransPennine are looking at providing more capacity for bikes, wheelchairs and luggage.

### Northern

- Performance had improved.
- New rolling stock being launched in the Calder Valley.
- New rolling stock for Brighouse has been delayed.
- Driver and conductor training was taking place.
- Pacer trains are to be replaced but will be retained for a short time in order to ensure a continuation of service. The decision has been for two reasons, driver knowledge of the trains and capacity. The remaining Pacer trains will be discontinued in May 2020.
- Autumn is always a difficult time with leaves on the line.
- Waiting for the Williams review to be published.
- 158 new sprinter trains perform better with autumn leaf fallout.
- Huddersfield University are looking into solutions to leaf mould.

Members of the Sub-Committee had the following questions and comments

- Pacer trains need to be replaced as soon as possible.
- Real time train information has not been working.
- Marsden station and the Access for All project – all stations were not included because of the Transpennine route upgrade.

The Chair thanked all the operators for their updates.

**Resolved:** That the operator updates and the Sub-Committee's feedback be noted

## **10. Information Report**

Members considered a report which gave an update on matters relating to the Kirklees District and included notes of the joint District Consultation Sub-Committee discussion on bus information and December rail timetable changes.

Members of the Sub-Committee suggested that the agenda should cover more locally focussed issues including updates on local transport and highway schemes.

The Chair would feed back these comments to Councillor Groves, Chair of the Transport Committee.

**Resolved:** That the information report be noted.