

**NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
WAKEFIELD DISTRICT CONSULTATION SUB-COMMITTEE  
HELD REMOTELY ON THURSDAY, 14 OCTOBER 2021**

---

**Present:**

Councillor Alan Garbutt (Chair)	Transport Committee
Councillor Charlie Keith	Transport Committee
Councillor Mathew Morley	Portfolio Holder
Usman Ali (Deputy Chair)	Public Representative
Nigel Ashton (Public Representative)	Public Representative
Cliff Baker (Public Representative)	Public Representative
Peter Daniels (Public Representative)	Public Representative
David Hogg (Public Representative)	Public Representative

**In attendance:**

Andrew Bradley	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Janette Woodcock	West Yorkshire Combined Authority

**1. Open Forum**

Members questioned when the toilets would be completed at Wakefield Kirkgate and re-instatement of late trains which had been suspended temporarily from Leeds to Pontefract as it was difficult to return to Pontefract from Leeds late at night.

In response the representative from Northern said that work has now restarted on the toilets at Kirkgate station but there have been challenges including work access to the site. This was a Grand Central Project, and the build was in conjunction with the Department of Transport.

Re-instatement of the late trains from Leeds to Pontefract had not been confirmed so he was unable to give a further update at this time.

**2. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from John Chums

**3. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

There were no items of disclosable Pecuniary Interest declared at the meeting.

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

There were no items on the Agenda which required the exemption of the press and public.

**5. Minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2021**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2021 be noted.

**6. Notes of the informal joint DCSC meeting held on 26 August 2021**

The notes of the informal joint DCSC held on 26 August 2021 were presented to the Committee for information and the contents noted.

**7. Introductions**

Councillor Alan Garbutt has been appointed as Chair of the Committee and he introduced himself and welcomed Public Representatives, Councillors and officers to the Committee.

**8. Chair's Update and Transport Review**

There were no comments on the Transport Review or other updates from the Chair

**9. Information Report**

The Sub-Committee received an update on transport schemes within the Wakefield area.

**10. Operator Updates**

Arriva

Arriva reported that passenger numbers were continuing to slowly improve. The punctuality of many services had been affected by roadworks. Recruitment was noted as being a challenge due to the national driver shortage, and it was felt that this was being exacerbated by the Government's focus on the impact of this issue on the HGV industry rather than on the bus services.

Northern

Northern performance measures were currently generally strong. Passenger levels were at approximately 75% of what would be expected at this time of year pre-pandemic. However, it was noted that this recovery had primarily been in leisure travel, such as to the coast or to retail centres, with the traditional commute remaining low at close to 35% of pre-pandemic levels due

to the shift toward working at home. Initiatives were in place to aim to raise patronage for the commute, such as a new flexible season ticket, though take-up had been limited. More general initiatives encouraging travel were also being used, such as a recent £1 ticket flash sale.

It was noted that although the driver shortages described by bus operators were not affecting the rail industry, pipeline issues had been caused by a period where training was unable to take place due to social distancing restrictions. However, work to address this such as the implementation of training bubbles had lessened the impact and these restrictions were now lifted, and it was expected that the availability of trained drivers would have fully caught up to standard levels by the end of Spring 2022.

Members further questioned a lack of consultation between Crigglestone Parish Council and Arriva. In response the representative from Arriva said they are happy to engage and will contact the Parish Council to ensure they receive communications in future.

Members felt It was essential that buses are reinstated as soon as possible to outlying areas of Wakefield to maintain connectivity.

**Resolved:** That the Operators be thanked for their updates

## **11. Workshop Session - Travel and Transport post pandemic**

Members received a presentation on the impact of the pandemic on travel and transport in the region, and on plans for recovery and on the long-term impact on travel behaviours, and were asked to consider three key questions:

- How has Covid changed your travel habits and perception of safety?
- What needs to happen to enable transport to support an economically sustainable recovery?
- How do we ensure transport options enable the widest range of people to be included in society?

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