



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CALDERDALE DISTRICT CONSULTATION SUB-COMMITTEE
HELD ON TUESDAY 4 APRIL 2017 AT THE TOWN HALL, HALIFAX**

PRESENT: Councillor Dan Sutherland (Chair)

PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES

Myra James	John Sheppard
Peter Melling	Peter Stocks
John Myddelton	

CALDERDALE COUNCIL

Councillor Robert Holden

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Chris Lister	-	Arriva
Oliver Howarth	-	First
Pete Myers	-	Northern
Mike Holland	-	Yorkshire Tiger
James Smith	-	Yorkshire Tiger
Diane Groom	-	WYCA
Erica Ward	-	WYCA
Khaled Berroum	-	WYCA
David Ashton	-	Observer

37. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Jenny Lynn.

38. MINUTES

Regarding Halifax Town Centre, the committee was informed that discussions are still ongoing and a consultation on the issue was planned to take place soon.

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2017 be noted.

39. 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:

Composite Timetables

Members queried the disappearance of the old Metro composite timetables which provided a comprehensive outline of all train times on a route, saying that people now had to look at several different timetables to get the same information. Members asked if there was a plan to bring back the old timetables. A representative from Northern informed the committee that there were no plans to reproduce the old timetables.

Bus Stop Displays

Members advised that a bus stop in Sowerby Bridge had incorrect and unnecessary information on it. The member was informed that officers would look into that stop.

Bicycles on Trains

Members asked about the policy for taking bikes onto trains. A Northern representative confirmed to the committee that it remains 2 cycles per train, at the discretion of the conductor. Newer trains will aim to have greater provision for cycles.

Car Parking at Sowerby Bridge

Members asked if there were any plans to increase car parking at train stations, particularly Sowerby Bridge. The committee heard that there were no current plans to increase parking capacity.

40. FEEDBACK REPORT

The Committee considered a report advising members of the feedback received at the meeting held on 11 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 proposed that meetings take place in ground floor meeting rooms to better accommodate disabled members.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

41. INFORMATION REPORT

Service Changes

Members raised the issue of the X58 service changes. Members reported that the x58 service had been retimed changing from a 30-minute service to having two buses arrive within ten minutes of each other every hour. Members asked if the bus times could be better spread across the hour as it used to be. Yorkshire Tiger representatives said they would raise the issue with their commercial team. WYCA officers would also check if WYCA subsidises that route.

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.

Members enquired as to whether drivers had received new training in the wake of the Supreme Court case. The committee heard that drivers had been issued with new information and guidelines and that complaints had gone down.

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.

Members raised concerns that the Low Emissions strategy defined in the papers was not adequate enough to meet targets, including EU targets, in Calderdale. The committee heard that there is a Calderdale strategy being developed at council level and discussions are ongoing. Further updates will be made in the future.

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.

Members asked when the issue of real time displays at bus stops not working will be resolved. The committee was informed that work was being done to identify the source of the problem and correct it.

Members commented on the consultation for new bus stop time displays and suggested that times take precedence over maps and diagrams and it was noted that there was still a lack of provision for blind people at bus stops. The committee was informed that WYCA is still in the process of receiving and analysing feedback and will provide more information to the committee in the future as matters progress.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted

42. CONSULTATION REPORT

Bus Strategy

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).

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

Members raised the issue of physical accessibility to buses. Due to a lack of raised curbs and the issue of cars parking at bus stops, many people face both a gap and a step up when entering a bus. The committee was informed about plans in other districts to alleviate this issue.

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.

RESOLVED - That members' feedback be noted.