

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CALDERDALE DISTRICT
CONSULTATION SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 10 APRIL
JANUARY 2018 IN THE MAIN HALL, THE KINGS CENTRE, HALIFAX**

Present:

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

In attendance:

Mary Farrar	Calderdale Council
Tommy Moorhouse	Calderdale Council
Pete Myers	Northern
Jon Croxford	Arriva
Jonathan Woodhouse	Arriva
Mark Fenwick	Arriva
Oliver Howarth	First Group
Mike Holland	Yorkshire Tiger
Robert Mason	Yorkshire Tiger
Diane Groom	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Khaled Berroum	West Yorkshire Combined Authority

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from John Whiteley, Zaheer Khalil, and Meg Gillet.

2. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None were declared.

3. Exempt information – possible exclusion of the press and public

There were no exclusions of the press and public at the meeting.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2018

It was clarified that the name of the report referenced in minute 11 was the 'Transport and Travel' report and considered wider issues than those noted.

Resolved - That the minutes of the last meeting be approved.

5. **Low Emissions and Air Quality Strategy**

The subcommittee was provided with a presentation outlining Calderdale Council's emerging Low Emissions and Air Quality Strategy followed by questions and a discussion covering the following:

- It was felt that air quality should be one of the Transport Committee's top priorities as a large part involved relieving traffic congestion and the pollution associated with that.
- It was a question of policy and priorities of policymakers, not constrained by resources due to the Transport Fund being substantial (at £1.6bn).
- Although strategies to divert and control traffic through the traffic lights and road infrastructure modifications were being considered, the subcommittee felt that for the money being spent on them the return on the investment in terms of outcomes and lowered emissions were not enough.
- Reducing the use of cars was the strongest possibility of progress. Suggestions for this included publicity and information campaigns promoting non-car modes to stimulate public support, bus lanes (and fixing delayed light changes on bus lanes), park & rides, intelligent/smart parking, stronger enforcement of illegal parking, and reducing the amount of freight on the roads.
- Other suggestions included promoting electric cars and walking, integrating environmental policies in local plans, place policy and housing (e.g. electric charging points or non-car only residential areas), promoting and expanding clean air (and congestion) zones, and investing in mass transit and local infrastructure.

The subcommittee also heard evidence from representatives from 'Calderdale Friends of the Earth' and agreed that the Chair of this subcommittee raise a resolution passed by the subcommittee:

"That the Transport Committee, in light of the February 2018 Supreme Court judgement and in order to fulfil Objective 7 of the Transport Strategy, recommend that the Yorkshire Combined Authority lead a process with the five West Yorkshire constituent councils to review the West Yorkshire Low Emissions Strategy by 2020 in light of new regulations – and if powers or resources are not forthcoming, representations should be made to the central government for extra provisions and mechanisms. "

Resolved:

- i) That the presentation on Calderdale's Low Emissions and Air Quality Strategy be noted and the subcommittee's feedback be noted.

- ii) That the Chair raise the subcommittee's resolution at the Transport Committee as quoted in minute 5 above.

6. Tracker Survey

The subcommittee was provided with a presentation outlining the findings of the annual West Yorkshire Tracker Survey, followed by questions and a discussion covering the following:

- That the blind companion passes are now available online – no need to go to the council.
- People's opinions on the discontinuation of printed literature should be sought.
- The number of questions is limited as it is a telephone survey. A separate survey for certain issues might be considered in future.
- The full report/data is available for distribution to the subcommittee.
- Officers will check how deaf people were consulted through the telephone survey and report back.

Resolved: That the Tracker Survey and the subcommittee's feedback be noted.

7. Operator updates

Northern updated the subcommittee on service changes affecting Calderdale due to the new timetable update scheduled for May 2018. Due to an unfortunate delay in the electrification of rail near Bolton, certain electric train reallocations which the new timetable relied upon could not be made and the timetable had to be redone. It was emphasised that no previous plans have been cancelled, only delayed until the new lines and trains are in operation – expected in Summer/Autumn 2018.

The subcommittee discussed the changes, followed by questions and a discussion covering the following:

- Disappointment was expressed at the delay of a new service from Calder Valley to Manchester airport, especially after investment in new rail tracks.
- Northern will consider, rolling stock permitting, an extra Sunday service on the Brighouse route.
- Station car park extensions have been greenlit at Hebden Bridge and Mirfield and some consideration is being given to potential changes to Mirfield station.

First reported the following updates:

- No significant changes to Calderdale bus services.
- A recruitment drive for staff is ongoing and 40% of existing staff are undergoing new training programmes. The subcommittee acknowledged that the training has worked – reporting that drivers have begun asking passengers where they are going in order to help.
- A target of 80% cashless travel within 5 years has been set to reduce journey times extended by cash transactions. Mobile payment and Mcards are preferred.

Yorkshire Tiger and Arriva reported only minor service changes to improve punctuality, with an increased focus on customer communications.

Resolved: That the operator updates be noted and subcommittee's feedback be noted.

8. Information Report

An information report was presented updating the sub-committee on matters relating to the Calderdale district.

Resolved: That the information report be noted.

9. Open Forum – Questions and suggestions

It was suggested that:

- The Combined Authority formally object to penalty fares introduction until all machines which sell 'best value' tickets are installed as the current machines take too long. Assurances were given by Northern that the policy will be reasonably applied and only at stations with working (well maintained) ticket machines. The scheme will be advertised widely and there will be 'promise to pay' tickets issued to alleviate any issues that may arise. Though, lateness/queues is not considered a good excuse for not boarding with a ticket.
- Rail station signs on the platforms should be better illuminated as it is difficult to see at night. It was noted that new trains will feature audio-visual technology announcing each station, not just the destination.
- Blind passengers not be forgotten in plans to increase the amount of real time displays and information being displayed on screens. Digital avenues should also include audio-visual information.
- The Combined Authority closely monitor the services it subsidises or funds to ensure they are running. It was noted that this was already the case.

Members also asked for any information or developments relating to the Combined Authority funded Halifax town centre scheme to be shared as they have not heard anything since the consultation in July 2017.

10. Provisional date of the next meeting – 30 October 2018