

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WAKEFIELD DISTRICT  
CONSULTATION SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 26 APRIL  
2018 IN OLD COURT ROOM, TOWN HALL, WAKEFIELD**

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**Present:**

Usman Ali (Acting Chair)	Public Representative
Councillor Kevin Swift	Transport Committee
Nigel Ashton	Public Representative
Cliff Baker	Public Representative
John Churms	Public Representative
Peter Daniels	Public Representative
David Hogg	Public Representative
Thomas Randall	Public Representative
David Young	Public Representative

**In attendance:**

Kim Purcell	Arriva Yorkshire
Pete Myers	Northern
Neal Wallace	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Khaled Berroum	West Yorkshire Combined Authority

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor David Dagger and Paul Howden.

**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 18 January 2018**

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

**5. 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:

- • Due to the greater take up of digital services budget pressures

requiring savings to be made, the use of printed literature timetable booklets and maps has decreased. The Combined Authority will print 5,000 or so copies of the bigger services when initially issued but will not be re-printed until the next major change. This reflects the general trend to go paperless.

- Buses used to use airdials to transmit real time location data, but that the more accurate GPS is used by the new ticket machines which are a requirement for future CA contract services.
- District specific data is not published as the sample size is too small to accurately draw Wakefield district-specific data and conclusions, though this will be considered in future, resources permitting.

Concerns were also raised about the increasing digitalisation of services and what security measures the Combined Authority was employing. It was reported that the Combined Authority was testing robust firewalls frequently, but that officers will double check what measures were currently employed to protect against phishing scams and other potential breaches.

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

## 6. Operator updates

Northern updated the subcommittee on service changes affecting Wakefield 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 new changes will be distributed to the subcommittee after the meeting. Northern also reported a Combined Authority scheme to refurbish Castleford station including a renovation and expansion of the car park.

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

- Plans for an extra train on the York-Pontefract Baghill service has been postponed until December 2018.
- A typo was noted on the schedule of the 10:14 Pontefract-York service departing at 10:15 and will be corrected – there should be a minimum five-minute turnover.
- Further improvements to services in Pontefract will require extra investment, for which a business case and funding will be needed.
- Northern colleagues will double check the apparent reduction in the 7.40 Sandal-Leeds service, being reduced to two carriages, and report back.
- Concerns were raised about the Huddersfield service now terminating at Kirkgate losing connections to London trains and issues for schoolchildren and others who travel from into Wakefield.
- Suggestions were also given for alleviating the parking problems at Kirkgate and concerns were raised that it could get worse with service

changes.

- Thorpe Park, Elland, and White Rose new stations are planned – but not Horbury
- There is uncertainty around plans to have a direct service to Bradford – not going through Leeds – in 2019.
- Concerns were raised about the new penalty fares regime and assurances were given that the policy will be reasonably applied, only at stations with working ticket machines which will be maintained well, the scheme will be advertised widely and there will be ‘promise to pay’ tickets issued to alleviate any issues that may arise.

Arriva reported the following updates:

- 10 Euro4 vehicles have been replaced with new Euro5 vehicles in Wakefield and work is being undertaken to upgrade the entire fleet.
- The Travel Office has been refurbished and now hosts an MCard machine outside.
- The company’s operations performance was rated as 99.5% of mileage operated in controllable conditions. Mileage lost for ‘uncontrollable’ reasons was 0.48% and 1.5% in February and March 2018 respectively – largely due to adverse weather.
- Punctuality increased 1.26% since last year.
- That the Combined Authority and operators cooperated well during the recent bad weather, establishing a scheme where operators accepted each other’s tickets to ensure everyone could get home – a scheme replicated across the country.
- An increase in female drivers due to a recruitment drive.
- Plans to introduce contactless payments in the future.
- Arriva colleagues are currently following up on a request to consider a new service to the industrial park.

#### **Resolved:**

- a) That the operator updates be noted and subcommittee’s feedback be noted.
- b) That the Combined Authority and operators be commended for their cooperative approach during the bad weather crisis and that greater cooperation, within current competition laws, be formally considered more often in the future.

## **7. Information Report**

An information report was presented updating the sub-committee on matters relating to the Wakefield district and followed by questions and a discussion covering the following:

- Combined Authority express its disappointment that TfN held no public engagement events in Wakefield, but did so in Leeds and Huddersfield
- The Combined Authority is trying to ensure that no services are lost, as are Transport for Greater Manchester and South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive.
- Car parking is becoming a problem as rail becomes more popular.

Fitzwilliam car park extension has delivered fewer than anticipated extra places due to the expense of the scheme and complications of the project regarding underground flood prevention.

The subcommittee suggested that empty land near Fitzwilliam (owned by Network Rail) and Normanton be incorporated into the car park extension projects if possible. Combined Authority officers will feed that back, but the project might be too far along to modify at this time.

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

**8. Open Forum - Questions and suggestions**

The subcommittee discussed the tendency of buses to use the car lane on the Black Road-Doncaster Road junction in Normanton, instead of the bus lane because it was faster and it was reported that this issue was being looked into by the Council's independent safety audit, after being raised by residents and Arriva.

**9. Provisional date of the next meeting – 1 November 2018**