



Bus Operators and Council working together to deliver better bus services for York

Minutes: York Quality Bus Partnership

West Offices, 15th December 2014

1. **Introduction and apologies:** Present: John Carr (Chair), Jim Wallace (Transdev), John Duff (Reliance), Keith McNally (CPT), Ben Gilligan (First), Bob Rackley (EYMS), Mark Fenwick (Arriva), Frances Daly (Chair, York Bus User Group); Cllr Tony Richardson; Tony Clarke, Andrew Bradley, Ben Manuja, Sam Fryers, Julian Ridge, Derek McCreadie (City of York Council), Janet Mason (York District Hospital), George Wood (York Older Peoples' Assembly)
Apologies: Cllr David Levene

2. **Minutes of last meeting:** Approved

3. **Concessionary Fares to hospital appointments:**
George Wood (YOPA) and Janet Wood (York NHS) gave a short presentation about senior citizens' travel, specifically, travel to appointments at the Hospital before 9AM. They argued that holders of ENCTS passes should be allowed to travel for free before 9AM, on production of an ENCTS pass and an appointment letter. The principal points made during the presentation were:

- a. George Wood: use levels were expected to be very low. At the moment, the Hospital issues around 10 travel passes a week for such journeys. Although the application process is currently complex, and a small increase in numbers could be expected if the process was simplified.
- b. Andrew Bradley: any such concession would need to be provided commercially by the operators, as altering the Concessionary Scheme to accommodate it would be a complex operation and further, that there is no budget currently allocated by the Council for reimbursement of such an enhancement.

- c. George Wood: First already had a scheme in place, and YOPA were asking for this to be extended to the other operators in York
- d. Frances Daly made the point that the scheme would have to cover all holders of concessionary passes – so people with disability passes, as well as senior passes
- e. The operators were generally amenable to making such a scheme, but there was an acknowledgement on all sides that some work was required to refine the scheme.

Actions: First to provide the wording they use in their scheme, and CYC to circulate it around all the operators (JR)

CYC and YOPA/ YDH to work up more detailed proposal Operators to make individual decisions about whether they wish to offer the concession

CYC to consider production of a leaflet publicising scheme

4. **Network Review Update:** JR said the Network Review was now complete. **Action:** this will be circulated in advance of the March QBP (JR).

5. **Low Emission Area Bid:** Derek McCreadie provided an overview of York’s “Ultra-low emissions city (ULC)” scheme and “low emissions bus (LEB)” scheme, both of which were DfT/ BIS funding contests, with a collective value of £65mn. DmcC said that York were keen to put in a ULC bid too because he felt the city was of a size which would allow the funding available to have a transformative effect on emissions in York. The LEB bid would allow a continuation of the work which is already taking place greening the bus fleet.

Ben Gilligan said that it was important that the problem was looked at holistically – with taxis and HGV operators also changing their fleets to reduce emissions. In particular, he said, it was important that the Council worked to improve its own fleet of vans, dustbin lorries etc. DmcC said that there was also a “Green Van Grant” which could cover 100% of the cost difference between a low emissions van and a

standard van, and that this could form part of the bid. DmcC advised that the ULC bid would be submitted in February. Post meeting note – this has now been submitted and we will discover in the Spring as to whether or not York has been shortlisted.

6. **Local Plan update:** AB gave a short update on the Local Plan and said that it was currently in abeyance, awaiting agreement about the housing allocation (number and locations).

Cllr Richardson said that operators needed to input into the process, and that the most important outcome needs to be “a good Local Plan to go forward to the inspector”

7. **Subsidised bus network update:** Andrew Bradley said that a paper had been produced which showed how to achieve a £200k saving in supported services expenditure in 2015/16, as set out in the Council’s proposed budget. At this stage no decision had been made and the QBP would need to be updated following a Cabinet meeting to agree next year’s budget in January. AB said he was happy to speak to any operator on a confidential basis. (Post meeting note – the Cabinet decided not to take these savings and officers have been asked to consider how to best measure value for money from public transport services).

8. **Smartcards update:** Ben Manuja (CYC) explained that the smartcard project was moving forward, towards a product launch in the Summer. As such, the April Marketing Group meeting was likely to be given over to smartcards. CYC would table detailed proposals to market smartcards at this meeting, for operator input. (Action, all to note)

9. **Real time passenger information update:** JR explained that real time screens were now being fitted at village and district centres around York. AB explained that CYC was currently procuring a new “back office” system for the real time with West and South Yorkshire. (Action: all to note)

10. **Sub Group meetings:** JR updated the group on the Marketing sub-group and Bus User Group meetings. AB updated the group on the Performance Group meetings.

11. **AOB:** Cllr Richardson asked about delays to bus services in York. Ben Gilligan agreed that there had been some disruption recently linked to roadworks and subsequent traffic congestion. He also asked about overcrowding on some bus services to/ from Joseph Rowntree School. Ben Gilligan asked for details of dates/ times and said he would look into it.
12. **Presentation to John Carr:** the group made a presentation to John Carr to thank him for his work in chairing the Quality Bus Partnership over the past eight years
13. **Date of next meeting:** Monday 16th March 1700-1900.