

RMBC TRANSPORT LIAISON GROUP
Wednesday, 16th March, 2011

Present:- Councillor Smith (in the Chair); Councillors Atkin, Barron, Buckley, Ellis, R. S. Russell, Sharman, Sims, Swift, Whelbourn, Whysall and Wootton.

together with:-

Dave Cooper	Rotherham Community Transport
Rupert Cox	Stagecoach South Yorkshire
Gilliam Palmer	South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive
Richard Simons	First South Yorkshire

9. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

10. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Councillor Austen	RMBC Ward 6 (Holderness)
Councillor Falvey	RMBC Ward 4 (Dinnington)
Councillor Hodgkiss	RMBC Ward 7 (Hoover)
Councillor Pickering	RMBC Ward 17 (Valley)
Gary Nolan	Stagecoach East Midlands

11. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 22ND NOVEMBER, 2010

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting of the RMBC Transport Liaison Group held on 22nd November, 2010.

Resolved:- That the minutes be agreed as a correct record.

12. ANY MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

13. UPDATES FROM THE TRANSPORT OPERATORS

The following reports were submitted:-

(i) First South Yorkshire

Richard Simons reported that a new service was to commence on 9th May, 2011, for Rotherham to Manvers and then onto Barnsley.

There were no other changes for Rotherham.

(ii) Northern Rail

No report was given.

(iii) Rotherham Community Transport

Dave Cooper gave the following report:-

- The 17 seater mini bus donated to the Mayor's Charity was being made very good use of by community groups around Rotherham. Work had taken place with RotherFed in respect of transport grants that TARAs could bid for and use the mini bus
- A 1 day training session had been held on 24th January where 10 volunteers had taken MIDAS training on the mini bus. All 10 had now passed the test so any group wanting to access the bus could have a volunteer driver to take them out. It was charged per hour that it was out and each mile that was covered
- Due to the possible cut backs in rural areas public transport, consideration had been given to accessing viable transport. It may be that a volunteer car scheme, that had been very successful in Sheffield, could be replicated
- A 1 day conference and workshop was to be held on 7th April at VAR to look at the different groups around Rotherham that relied on volunteer drivers and transport with the aim of better co-ordination

(iv) South Yorkshire Passenger Transport

Gillian Palmer gave the following report:-

- Rotherham Station Update - There had been some delays with the latest completion date now being August, 2011. Very shortly the work would be visible to members of the public with consideration now being given to plans for the re-opening of the station
- Bus Service Update - The next service change would take place on 8th May, a little later than usual due to the Bank Holidays. Details would be released shortly. A letter had gone out to Members informing them of the 20p charge for the Interchange toilets. This was in line with the Council's public toilets' charges
- Bus Vision - A number of meetings and preparation was taking place to reconsider the network that had been consulted upon and include the detailed comments received. Once the network had been drafted to the next stage it would be submitted to the Members Working Group and ITA for further consideration
- LTP Strategy - The Strategy had been agreed and would be published on 1st April, 2011. It would outline the Policies alongside the Implementation Plan. However, the Capital Programme had not been agreed for projects and actual schemes as yet

Councillor Whysall reported how helpful Pam Horner had been during the severe weather experienced during December, 2010, answering any queries raised. She asked that her sincere thanks to be conveyed to her.

Pam had stated that there was to be a debrief on the weather and the

affect on services. Councillor Whysall asked if this could be fed into the Scrutiny Review that was taking place.

(v) Stagecoach East Midlands

No report was given.

(vi) Stagecoach Yorkshire

Rupert Cox reported that there would be a small number of minor changes at the beginning of May that would not affect the number of journeys, frequencies etc.

The 7 new vehicles to upgrade Service 221 were now in service with a further 8 planned which would take the total up to approximately 50 new vehicles in the district. The point had now been reached where some of the older low floor buses inherited from Yorkshire Traction on the 218 Service were being replaced.

14. UPDATES FROM RMBC TRANSPORTATION UNIT

No report was given.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Sims reported, for information, residents had complained that they had been told by bus drivers that a charge was to be imposed on older people for using their bus passes. She had raised the issue with Pam Horner who had said that this was not true and asked for the bus journeys the people concerned had travelled on.

16. DATE, TIME AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That the next meeting of the RMBC Transport Liaison Group be held on Wednesday, 15th June, 2011 at 2.00 p.m. at the Town Hall, Moorgate Street, Rotherham.