

**RMBC TRANSPORT LIAISON GROUP**  
**Wednesday, 26th June, 2013**

Present:- Councillor Smith (in the Chair); Councillors Ahmed, Atkin, Beaumont, Falvey, Goulty, Pickering, G. A. Russell, R. S. Russell, Sims, Swift, Whelbourn, Whysall and Wootton; together with Mrs. G. Greensitt (SYPTE) and Mr. F. Johnson (Stagecoach Yorkshire)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Burton, Dodson, Hoddinott and Roche and from Mr. S. Hewitson (Rotherham Community Transport), Mr. R. Cox (Stagecoach Yorkshire), Mr. A. Timewell (First Group) and Mr. A. El-Khrouf (Robin Hood Airport).

**1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 20TH MARCH, 2013**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting of the Transport Liaison Group, held on 20th March, 2013.

Agreed:- That the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

**2. RECENT CHANGES AT THE ROBIN HOOD AIRPORT (DONCASTER/SHEFFIELD) - UPDATE AND CARGO GROWTH**

Consideration was given to a report which stated that, with effect from 1st January, 2013, Robin Hood Airport (Doncaster/Sheffield) became part of Peel Airports, a division of Peel Holdings. Members discussed whether there was scope for increasing the number of passengers using this airport.

The Transport Liaison Group also considered a report describing the increase in the airport's handling of cargo during the year March 2012 and March 2013. The report stated that the handling of cargo is seen as a catalyst for developing the region's logistics presence. A further development in the economic regeneration of the region is the forthcoming construction of the Finningley and Rossington Regeneration Route Scheme (FARRRS), a direct link road to the motorway network which will improve access to the airport. Members welcomed the increasing amount of cargo being dealt with at the airport.

Agreed:- That the two reports be received and their contents noted.

**3. UPDATES FROM THE TRANSPORT OPERATORS**

(1) First Group – Members continued to express concerns about buses not arriving, especially the S33 service to Brinsworth and Treeton.

(2) Northern Rail – no report

(3) Rotherham Community Transport – no report.

(4) South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYPTE)

Consideration was given to a report, presented, by Gilly Greensitt (SYPTE) stating that, with effect from the weekend of 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2013, changes to bus services operating across South Yorkshire will be implemented. In the Rotherham Borough area there are significant changes to Stagecoach service routes in the Dearne Valley area: Bolton on Dearne, Goldthorpe, Kilnhurst, Mexborough, Rawmarsh, Swinton, Thurnscoe, Wath upon Dearne and Wombwell. These changes are a consequence of the consultation held by Stagecoach with local people earlier in 2013. The service numbers affected are: 22, 27, 27A, 67, 72, 72A, 108, 109, 200, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 224, 226, 229 and X19. In respect of services 11 and 12, the routes and timetables are being amended to introduce a clockwise (service 11) and anti-clockwise (service 12) bus service around the East Dene estate. Each service will operate half-hourly to provide two buses an hour in each direction. The current service 11 between East Deane and the ASDA supermarket at Dalton is being withdrawn.

It was noted that, as an efficiency measure to minimise printing costs, the SYPTE will no longer post or offer supplies of timetables. Instead, information about bus services is available via the free e-mail alert service which notifies any timetable changes through the Travel South Yorkshire website.

The Transport Liaison Group noted that, on 19th June, 2013, Government Transport Minister Norman Baker MP attended the contract signing for the tram-train pilot service which will operate between Parkgate and the Sheffield city centre. This will be the first service in the United Kingdom to run on a tram way and the existing rail network and will carry passengers from early 2016 onwards. Being dual voltage, the system will be future-proofed, allowing for the subsequent electrification of the Midland Mainline.

The SYPTE has continued to liaise with Youth Councils/Parliaments in South Yorkshire. Rotherham Youth Council members have visited the Rotherham Interchange in May 2013, to meet interchange managers and discuss safety and security and other related issues of concern to young people. A number of recommendations were made by the young people, which are now being assessed by the Interchange managers. There will be further meetings with young people to discuss progress. A delegation from the Youth Council participated in the Young People's public transport summit organised by SYPTE and Sheffield City Council and will feature in a dvd film to use for driver training at SYPTE's Transport Academy. The production of this training film was one of the outcomes of the summit.

The Travel Choices team is liaising with the Borough Council's Children

and Young People's Services to offer "Bust Boost" to young people not in education, employment or training, to assist them into work or training. Introduced during April, 2013, the Bus Boost scheme operates through a corridor in Rotherham encompassing the Lower Don Valley through to Wickersley, Maltby and Parkgate. Bus Boost encourages employees to travel to work by public transport, instead of by car.

A South Yorkshire-wide young people's transport forum is in the process of being established, with two places allocated for young people resident in the Rotherham Borough area.

Reference was made to the pilot scheme of "through-ticketing", expected to begin in the Sheffield area during 2014, which will improve young people's experience of using local bus, tram and rail services.

The Transport Liaison Group agreed that a member of the Rotherham Youth Cabinet be invited to attend the next meeting, for discussion about progress with the transport issues raised by the Youth Cabinet.

(5) Stagecoach East Midlands – no report.

**4. STAGECOACH YORKSHIRE ANNUAL REPORT - COVERING OPERATIONS IN ROTHERHAM AND THE DEARNE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING APRIL 2013**

The Transport Liaison Group considered a summary of the annual report of Stagecoach Yorkshire, for the period May 2012 to April 2013. The summary stated that Stagecoach Yorkshire provides local bus services in South and West Yorkshire including the towns of Barnsley, Rotherham, Doncaster, Pontefract and Wakefield. The company's aim is to provide safe, reliable, punctual, clean and comfortable services with a good value for money range of tickets and fares.

Members noted that there would be changes to the services operating from the Stagecoach depot at Rawmarsh, beginning in July 2013. It was noted that there would be no reduction in the number of vehicles in operation.

Specific reference was made to services 108 and 109 (Rawmarsh) and Members commented that the bus travelling public in this area would be inconvenienced as a consequence of the changes to these services. It was noted that the 108 service would operate at intervals of fifteen minutes (Monday to Friday), but the 109 service would remain every ten minutes (both services are currently at intervals of ten minutes).

Members commented that the changes appeared to favour passengers who were commuting to and from work in the Dearne and Manvers area, rather than people who travelled by bus for other reasons. It was noted that the local Member of Parliament would be raising concerns about the bus service changes with the management of the Stagecoach company.

Although there was some criticism of the availability of information about the bus service changes and the consultation process, published on the Internet web site, it was noted that the SYPTE will inform all Councillors and Area Assemblies of the imminent service changes. There will also be media coverage by means of press releases and further information published on the SYPTE Internet site.

It was confirmed that no significant changes would be made to the services 19, 19A and 19B, within the Dinnington area.

Agreed:- (1) That the Stagecoach Yorkshire summary annual report 2012/13 be received and its contents noted.

(2) That the concerns about the proposed bus service changes affecting the Rawmarsh and Manvers area be noted.

#### **5. UPDATES FROM RMBC TRANSPORTATION UNIT**

Consideration of this matter was deferred until the next meeting.

#### **6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Transport Liaison Group noted that a public consultation exercise was currently taking place (in the period from 18th June to 25th July, 2013) concerning the proposal to relocate some of the services available at the NHS walk-in centre, adjacent to Bailey House, Rawmarsh Road, Rotherham to the Rotherham hospital at Moorgate. Members discussed the possibility of a free bus service being provided, between the Rotherham town centre and the hospital, enabling people to access the NHS services which may be relocated to the hospital.

Agreed:- That further consideration be given to this matter at the next meeting of the Transport Liaison Group, to be held on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2013.

#### **7. DATE, TIME AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

Agreed:- (1) That the next meeting of the RMBC Transport Liaison Group be held at the Town Hall, Rotherham on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2013, commencing at 2.00 p.m.

(2) That future meetings of the Transport Liaison Group take place on:-

- Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2013
- Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2014
- Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2014