

**RMBC Transport Liaison Group  
Wednesday, 4th December, 2013**

Present:- Councillor R. S. Russell (in the Chair); Councillors Atkin, Beaumont, Burton, Falvey, Goulty, Hoddinott, Pickering, G. A. Russell, Sims, Swift, Whelbourn and Whysall; together with Mr. A. Wright (South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive), Mr. S. Hewitson (Rotherham Community Transport), Mr. A. Timewell (First Group) and Mr. J. Young (Stagecoach Yorkshire).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ahmed, Andrews, Dodson and Smith; and from Mrs. G. Greensitt (SYPT) and Mr. B. Gilligan (First Group).

**14. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 25TH SEPTEMBER 2013**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting of the Transport Liaison Group, held on 25th September, 2013.

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

**15. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

(i) Minute No. 9 – Members requested details of the views of the Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group on the issue of the relocation of services from the NHS Walk-in Centre, Rawmarsh Road, Rotherham to the Rotherham hospital, including the implications for public transport services.

(ii) Minute No. 10 – it was clarified that the voluntary bus partnership would affect the whole of the Rotherham Borough area;

(iii) Minute No. 10 – A630 Doncaster Road, Thrybergh – the bus lane improvement works and installation of traffic signals (at the junction with Oldgate Lane) were expected to be complete by the end of December 2013.

**16. UPDATES FROM THE TRANSPORT OPERATORS**

(1) First Group – there are minor punctuality changes to some bus services; First Group will be participating in the Rotherham voluntary bus partnership.

(2) Stagecoach East Midlands – there are no planned service changes for January 2014.

(3) Stagecoach Yorkshire – the Dearne Valley network changes introduced in July 2013 had settled in, with some detailed feedback received on a couple of issues; this information was being included in the Rotherham voluntary bus partnership consultation process, with any service changes to be made in April 2014.

(4) South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYPTE)

Consideration was given to a report, presented by Andy Wright (SYPTE), describing the following issues:-

: continuing improvement works to the Rotherham transport interchange;

: Rotherham Voluntary Bus Partnership – the analysis of the outcome of the consultation process is taking place; after approval, service changes are likely to be implemented with effect from April 2014; Members commented on the usefulness of the public consultation exercise, including the drop-in sessions (especially those held at Kiveton Park and at Sunnyside);

: Members referred to the need for a direct bus route and service between the Rotherham hospital and the Kiveton Park/Wales area;

: progress with the development of the bus rapid transit route, which will operate across the Lower Don Valley, between Rotherham and Sheffield;

: the internet web link for the on-line renewal of concessionary travel passes is:- [www.travelsouthyorkshire.com](http://www.travelsouthyorkshire.com)

: outcome of consultation exercise - the new tram-trains, which will operate between Sheffield, Rotherham and Parkgate, will not carry cycles (with the exception of folding bicycles);

: Travel Choices – work with schools and the operation of the 'BusBoot' scheme involving work with local employers.

(5) Rotherham Community Transport – Members received a presentation from Steve Hewitson about the 2013 annual meeting and report of Rotherham Community Transport; emphasis was placed upon the provision of transport services which help to maintain and improve the quality of life of older people and people with a disability throughout the Rotherham Borough area; Community Transport is endeavouring to respond to the key issues arising from the 2012 survey of service-users and passengers, although the public sector financial pressures continue to apply to this organisation; details of the fares charged to customers were discussed and it was noted that full information was available on the new web site [www.door2door.org.uk](http://www.door2door.org.uk).

(6) Robin Hood Airport – the minutes of recent meetings of the airport consultative committee were received.

(7) Northern Rail – no report.

**17. ROBIN HOOD AIRPORT - CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the two most recent meetings of the Robin Hood Airport Consultative Committee, held on (a) 25th July, 2013 and (b) 24th October, 2013.

Members referred to : (i) the extent of advertising and publicity provided for passenger flights available from the airport; and (ii) the development of the Finningley and Rossington Regeneration Route Scheme (FARRRS) which will ensure improved access to the airport.

Agreed:- That the contents of the minutes of the meetings of the Robin Hood Airport Consultative Committee, as now submitted, be noted.

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

(a) syITS (South Yorkshire Intelligent Transport Systems) – implementation in the Rotherham Borough area

Further to Minute No. 18 of the meeting of the Transport Liaison Group held on 20th March, 2013, the Transportation and Traffic Manager reported on the progress of implementation of the syITS (South Yorkshire Intelligent Transport Systems). The principal purposes of this new technology and systems are to encourage and try and achieve a reduction in journey times and improved reliability of journey times on Rotherham's main highways.

Reference was made to:-

: the Rotherham town centre Urban Traffic Control system;

: the scheme is expected to be implemented during the Spring, 2014 and will be a SCOOT system (Split Cycle Offset Optimisation Technique), which was used to assist traffic flow in London during the 2012 Olympic Games;

: provision of an additional number of Variable Message Signs alongside certain roads in Rotherham, providing information for vehicle drivers;

: progress with the design of the crossroads, with traffic signals, at the 'Pool Green' roundabout (junction of A630 Centenary Way, Main Street and Masbrough Street), which will eventually replace the roundabout at that location on the outskirts of the Rotherham town centre;

: highway improvement and re-surfacing schemes - the control and monitoring of traffic congestion and the impact upon bus services.

(b) M1 Junction 33 (Catcliffe) – highway improvement scheme

During January 2014, the Highways Agency will commence a significant and large-scale highway improvement scheme, at this motorway junction. The scheme will provide additional lanes on the motorway southbound

off-slip, on the A630 Rotherway and on the circulatory carriageway.

(c) Rotherham town centre – cycling in pedestrianized areas

Members noted that the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Development has given approval (2 December 2013) for the scheme to permit cycling within many of the pedestrian areas of the Rotherham town centre, on an experimental basis likely to commence in February 2014, with a review after three months of operation of the scheme. Reference was made to pedestrian safety issues, especially affecting blind and partially-sighted people and other people with a disability. It was noted that the scheme will operate on a trial basis for twelve months, with regular monitoring and review taking place.

#### **19. TRANSPORT LIAISON GROUP - REVIEW**

Consideration was given to the role and function of the Transport Liaison Group, which became established in July 2001 to act as a sounding-board and scrutineer of public transport in the Borough area. A principal aspect of the Liaison Group's role is to facilitate regular dialogue between Elected Members, the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive, community transport representatives and the private sector bus operators.

Reference was also made to the imminent establishment of the Rotherham voluntary bus partnership, which aims to promote bus services throughout Rotherham and surrounding areas.

Agreed:- That draft terms of reference for the Transport Liaison Group be submitted for consideration at the next meeting.

#### **20. 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, 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2014, commencing at 2.00 p.m.

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

- Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2014
- Wednesday during September, 2014 (to be confirmed)
- Wednesday during December, 2014 (to be confirmed)