

**RMBC Transport Liaison Group  
Wednesday, 19th March, 2014**

Present:- Councillor Smith (in the Chair); Councillors Ahmed, Dodson, Falvey, Goulty, Hoddinott, G. A. Russell, Sims, Swift, Whysall and Wootton; together with Mr. M. Nuttall (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 Atkin, Beaumont, Pickering, R. S. Russell and, Whelbourn; and from Mr. P. Flanagan and Mr. B. Gilligan (First Group) and Mr. D. Stevenson (Stagecoach East Midlands).

**21. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 4TH DECEMBER, 2013**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting of the Transport Liaison Group, held on 4th December, 2013.

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

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

With regard to Minute No. 18(c) (Rotherham town centre – cycling in pedestrianized areas), it was noted that after due consideration by the Cabinet (Minute No. 164 of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2014) and again by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Development (14<sup>th</sup> February 2014), the scheme to permit cycling within the pedestrian areas of the Rotherham town centre, for a limited period and on an experimental basis, is to be limited to High Street only. A monitoring report will be submitted, later in 2014, to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Development.

**23. UPDATES FROM THE TRANSPORT OPERATORS**

(1) First Group – there are minor punctuality changes to some bus services affecting Treeton; questioning the recent increase in the price of fares, Members were informed that the principle reasons were rising costs and investment in vehicles; every endeavour is to be made to freeze fares for some short distance journeys; the eventual introduction of the Rotherham Voluntary Bus Partnership may include the introduction of weekly tickets. In addition, the price of fares for school pupils, who have to use several different buses on journeys to and from school, is to be kept as low as possible. The reduction in the price of bus fares in parts of South Yorkshire was also noted.

(2) Stagecoach East Midlands – there are no planned service changes in advance of the introduction of the Rotherham Voluntary Bus Partnership, expected to occur during the Summer 2014.

(3) Stagecoach Yorkshire – in response to feedback received as part of the public consultation process, services 108 and 109, operating in the Rawmarsh area, are to be returned to the routes applicable during 2012. The Transport Liaison Group noted that both Stagecoach and the First Group are taking action to assist in the reduction of air pollution by investment in new fleet and the use of alternative fuel buses (eg: electricity and gas). The use of electric buses will require re-charging facilities to be installed along bus routes. Gas-fuelled buses were being trialled in Sunderland.

#### (4) South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYLTE)

The highway alterations have been completed to allow the access and egress of vehicles at the Rotherham transport interchange (Centenary Way/Drummond Street). Discussions arising from the Rotherham Voluntary Bus Partnership consultation exercise have resulted in the restoration of direct links from the South Rotherham area to the Rotherham hospital. There are proposals for minor service changes in Maltby, to improve the speed of journeys, but in some areas (eg: Kimberworth) service changes will not be implemented. Service changes are being proposed for the Dalton/Flanderwell/Sunnyside area and it is anticipated that an hourly service frequency will continue to maintain links between these communities. There is an intention to introduce new ticketing arrangements for young people (aged 5 to 18 years), which include area-wide day and week tickets, acceptable to all bus operators. Members referred to the travel needs of young people, from outlying areas of the Rotherham Borough to the Rotherham town centre and to Meadowhall.

#### (5) Rotherham Community Transport

Members received a presentation from Steve Hewitson about the Social Prescribing Service, which had won the excellence in individual participation award from NHS England, announced on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2014; this service aims to reduce social isolation and loneliness amongst older people and people with a disability; Rotherham Community Transport has provided transport support for this service in Rotherham; statistical details were provided of the use of the dial-a-ride service throughout the Rotherham Borough area (eg: on one day in February, Community Transport accommodated almost 700 passenger journeys, using 22 vehicles); Members were informed of the way in which information about community transport was made available to the public, especially to young people who have disabilities; the presentation also included information about 'transport poverty' – the cost of transport being such a significant proportion of household expenditure, especially in deprived communities; it was noted that transport poverty tended to be a problem in some of Rotherham's rural communities; discussion also took place on the costs of fares for use of the dial-a-ride service, which were established on a county-wide basis.

Information was also provided about Rotherham Community Transport's service changes and fare increases, effective from Monday 31 March 2014, together with the timetable for the Door-2-Door service. Members noted the case study about the recruitment of a female apprentice motor vehicle engineer with Rotherham Community Transport.

The Transport Liaison Group acknowledged the limited funding available for community transport, as a consequence of reductions in public expenditure;

(6) Robin Hood Airport – consideration was given to the minutes of the two most recent meetings of the Robin Hood Airport Consultative, both held on 16th January, 2014 : (i) an ordinary meeting; and (ii) the annual general meeting. The contents of these minutes were noted.

(7) Northern Rail – information has been requested, by Members, about passenger safety on trains in the local area and at the Rotherham railway station.

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

The Borough Council was preparing bids for funding from the South Yorkshire Local Sustainable Transport Fund, for the financial year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016. Bids for new projects had to be submitted by the deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 and projects were expected to promote and/or support economic growth in the area, as well as help to reduce carbon emissions. Projects would relate to the Rotherham to Sheffield corridor, the Rotherham to Dearne corridor, as well as transport links between Rotherham and local centres such as Aston, Dinnington and Maltby. In addition, the funding bid would include: cycling promotion; the economic use of fleet vehicles; the Transport Academy (standards relating to public transport); safer roads; 'wheels-to-work'; bus services providing access to employment in the area between Stocksbridge, Chapeltown and Manvers; personalised travel planning (use of public transport); implementation of the South Yorkshire Intelligent Transport Systems in the Rotherham Borough area; 'Plugged in Places' (use of electric vehicles and the provision of 'plug-in' stations at various locations); marketing of these schemes (eg: [www.inmotion.co.uk](http://www.inmotion.co.uk), a web site providing advice about travel options in South Yorkshire).

#### **25. TRANSPORT LIAISON GROUP - TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Further to Minute No.19 of the meeting of the RMBC Transport Liaison Group held on 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2013, consideration was given to the Liaison Group's draft terms of reference.

Agreed:- That the draft terms of reference, as now submitted, be noted and considered further as part of the development of the Rotherham Voluntary Bus Partnership.

#### **26. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Transport Liaison Group was informed that a petition, containing 121 signatures, from residents and local businesses at Kenneth Street and Effingham Street, Rotherham has been received, requesting that the route of the Rotherham to Parkgate free bus should include both of those roads, as a consequence of the highway layout alterations resulting from the construction of the new Tesco supermarket, off Centenary Way. Members noted that, due to budget reductions, the public funding for the free bus will cease altogether in April 2014. However, it was anticipated that private sector funding might be made available to continue the free bus service for a limited period of time.

**27. DATE AND TIME OF 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> June, 2014, commencing at 2.00 p.m.

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

- Wednesday during September, 2014 (to be confirmed)
- Wednesday during December, 2014 (to be confirmed)