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West Yorkshire ACCESSIBILITY PARTNERSHIP

12 February 2009





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Agenda

1. Minutes of last meeting
2. Matters arising
3. Access to Health Update
4. Use it or Lose it Services Update
5. LTP2 Progress Report
6. Local Accessibility Plans
7. Travel Costs Discussion
 - Concessionary Fares
 - Jobseekers
 - Work placement students
8. Any other business





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Accessibility Planning Health Update





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The story so far....

- **Accessibility Audits**
 - 13 hospital sites/ 5 NHS trusts
 - package of improvements for LAs, Metro & Trusts
- **Information Strategy**
 - review of existing provision & best practice
 - recommendations for Metro, PCTs, Trusts & others
- **Action plans**
 - 5 x Hospital Trusts agreed, some quick wins already
 - further work with PCTs and mental health trusts planned





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New Bus Services Update





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Focus On Health

Off peak “Out patients and visitors” links

- 629 Shipley – Bradford off peak
- 78 East Leeds – St James’
- 530 West Halifax – Calderdale Royal

Evening visitors services

- Cleckheaton, Heckmondwike and Dewsbury to Dewsbury Hospital





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Focus On Employment

- 90 East Leeds to Cross Green
- 606 Bradford to Euroway





Focus On Local Shops and Facilities

Metro Local

- Accessible, flexible, community led services
- Off peak links to Cleckheaton, Heckmondwike, Batley, Dewsbury Huddersfield suburban centres

Use It Or Lose It

- 195 Highfields Estate – Hemsworth

Boxing Day 2007, 2008





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LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

- LTP2 Progress Report 2008
- LTP3 Draft guidance





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LTP2 Progress Report 2008

Recap:

- Mid-term review
- Reflective, self critical
- Look back (delivery), look forward (risks)
- Focus on Shared Priorities
- Informed by consultation, SWOT analysis

Our view on Accessibility:

- Strengths:
 - Partnership / Innovative Public & Community Transport projects
- Weaknesses:
 - Strategy too broad / Hospital target / Limited district ownership
- New model for accessibility planning





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GOYH response (letter 19/01/09)

- Not a formal assessment, No grading, No reward funding
- Consistent with own findings
- Positive overall
- Key concern – bus delivery & patronage

Accessibility

- Achievements:
 - Accessibility Partnership ...to build on
 - Delivery – MetroLocal, Rail facilities, Hospital audits
- Comments
 - Understand reasons for Target underperformance
- Opportunities
 - More locally based targets
 - Alignment with LAA indicators / objectives



LTP3 Draft guidance – post 2011



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- **New ITA responsible for LTP production & implementation**
 - Consult with LAs
- **5 Transport goals replace 4 shared priorities:**
 - Tackle Climate Change
 - Support Economic Growth
 - Promote Equality of Opportunity
 - Contribute to Better Safety, Security & Health
 - Improve Quality of Life.
- **Contains Strategy & Implementation Plans**
 - ITA decides duration, but...
 - Strategy Plan: 5 - 20 years (- align with RSS, LDF etc)
 - Implementation Plan: 3 years? (- align with LA funding settlements & LAA)
- **Consistent with Sustainable Community Strategies & LAA targets**
 - Accountable to communities rather than DfT
 - Not formally assessed by DfT, No performance related funding
 - No mandatory targets. Monitoring & assessment linked to LAA / CAA
 - Annual meetings with GOYH, every 2 years with DfT
- **In place for April 2011**





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Local Accessibility Plans





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Aim of Local Accessibility Planning

- To produce Local Accessibility Action Plans which identify the key issues (top 3 priorities) and suggest appropriate solutions which can be implemented
- It is anticipated that the issues and solutions will be identified and owned by the local communities





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Why is this approach needed?

- To date there has been limited progress with developing District Council Area accessibility audits and action plans
- Identifying accessibility issues even at a district level is complicated and smaller geographic areas should be considered
- There are effective Area Forums / Committees in Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees and Leeds, and these can be used to engage with local communities about their accessibility issues





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5 Pilot Areas

- Shipley Area Committee
- Bradford North Area Committee
- Calderdale Lower Valley Area Forum
- Batley, Birstall and Birkenshaw Locality
- North West Leeds (Outer) Area Committee





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Proposed Methodology

Stage 1

- Area Committees / Forums to be formally invited to be involved in the pilot
- Study of current action plans, existing maps and data about the Locality
- Identification of the key facilities which need to be accessed within the Locality and therefore mapped. Access to facilities outside the Locality would also have to be considered, possibly through the identification of hubs and longer-distance routes (e.g. rail station and rails services).
- Production of accessibility maps, using Accession
- Interpretation of maps





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Proposed Methodology

Stage 2

- Presentation of maps and findings to the Area Committees / Forums. Identification of the key local accessibility issues. The priorities (e.g. top three) need to be decided by the community
- Identification of appropriate solutions and funding for solving key accessibility issues
- All information to be incorporated into a Local Accessibility Action Plan
- Evaluation of the process – could Local Accessibility Planning be rolled out?
- Review of Action Plan after a year?





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The Local Accessibility Solutions could be quite diverse. For example:

| Interventions | Possible Solutions |
|--------------------|---|
| Transport | Re-timing of bus services, Community Transport solutions, AccessBus, MetroLocal, Taxicards, new bus services, Car Clubs, Social Car Club Schemes, additional bus shelters etc |
| Access to Services | Mobile service delivery, one-stop-shops, virtual (ICT / Phone) services, supermarkets offering a home delivery service |
| Service Design | Changing doctor's surgery times |





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Timescales

- Will vary for each pilot area, dependant on consultation mechanisms, meetings dates etc
- Anticipate that consultation in some Localities will take all year (2009)
- Progress reports will be presented to the Accessibility Partnership





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Travel Costs Discussion





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Concessionary Fares

- English National Concessionary Pass
 - Free, off-peak, local bus travel throughout England after 9.30am Mon to Fri & all day at weekends and bank holidays
 - For older people & people with a disability





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Concessionary Fares

- Demands for removal of peak time restriction e.g.
 - Access to health appointments
 - Access to education for disabled students
- Positive/negative impacts?





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Jobseekers

- The cost of bus fares or running a car can affect travel to interviews and work:
 - one in four people say their job search is inhibited by the cost of travel to interviews
 - 14 per cent of out-of-work lone parents say they can't afford the cost of transport to work

Making the Connections, Social Exclusion Unit, 2003





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Travel for Work Project

- Three year project (Metro, LAs, JCP, HA) part funded by Yorkshire Forward
- Aims
 - to assist jobseekers to overcome travel barriers to taking employment
 - reduce travel for work related carbon dioxide emissions by 30,000 tonnes through workplace travel planning





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Progress

- Over 1900 jobseekers assisted with journey plan & free monthly MetroCard
- Beneficiaries
 - 27% would not have been able to take their job without the free MetroCard
 - 94% of bus users use the free MetroCard on the bus 4+ times a week
 - 62% still in employment
 - 82% of those still in employment continue to commute by public transport & just 3% drive to work
 - 63% were more confident using public transport





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Future

- Year 1 & 2 demand has been high
- Additional funding secured from YF for 1500 tickets
- Funding ends 2010
- Impact of increasing unemployment on future demands
- Model for supporting jobseekers beyond 2010?





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Work Placement

- 95% of key stage 4 students take part
- DFES guidance:
 - “parents may be asked to meet the cost ...[of travel to work placement]... LEAs & schools retain the discretion to provide a subsidy where appropriate & where resources allow.”
- Travel costs can be a barrier for some families





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Work Placement

- Liaison with WP coordinators & schools
- Raise awareness of:
 - Half fare pass for young people
 - SchoolPlus ticket
- Report specific problems to Metro
- Offer support in cases of hardship?





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Discussion

- Concessions
 - Impact of changing peak time restrictions?
- Job Seekers
 - Model for supporting jobseekers beyond 2010
- Work Placement
 - Responding to/resourcing a solution

