

M E E T I N G N O T E S

Subject:	LTP ACCESSIBILITY PARTNERSHIP																						
Date of meeting:	12 February 2009																						
Location: Present:	<p>Metro, Wellington House, Leeds</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">John Henkel (Chair)</td> <td>Metro (WY Passenger Transport Executive)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fiona Limb</td> <td>Bradford Council (Transportation)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chris Yapp</td> <td>Highways Agency/JMP</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Paul Jones</td> <td>Community Transport Calderdale</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Louise Stewart</td> <td>Leeds City Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Erica Ward</td> <td>Metro (WY Passenger Transport Executive)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Steve Heckley</td> <td>Metro (WY Passenger Transport Executive)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dave Pearson</td> <td>Metro (WY Passenger Transport Executive)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Steven Leigh</td> <td>Mid Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce & Industry</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ian Goldthorpe</td> <td>Wakefield Council (Transportation)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clare Davies</td> <td>West Yorkshire Rural Transport Partnership / Metro</td> </tr> </table>	John Henkel (Chair)	Metro (WY Passenger Transport Executive)	Fiona Limb	Bradford Council (Transportation)	Chris Yapp	Highways Agency/JMP	Paul Jones	Community Transport Calderdale	Louise Stewart	Leeds City Council	Erica Ward	Metro (WY Passenger Transport Executive)	Steve Heckley	Metro (WY Passenger Transport Executive)	Dave Pearson	Metro (WY Passenger Transport Executive)	Steven Leigh	Mid Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce & Industry	Ian Goldthorpe	Wakefield Council (Transportation)	Clare Davies	West Yorkshire Rural Transport Partnership / Metro
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	<p>Apologies for absence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark Duggleby – GOYH • Ian Galacher - BMDC • Peter Godfrey - Highways Agency • Andrew Hall - Leeds City Council • Kevin Westwood - Making Leeds Better Programme • Liz Bailey - Wakefield PCT • James Nutter - Yorkshire Forward • Neale Wallace – Metro • Anne Sykes – JobCentre Plus 		
1	<p>Minutes of previous meeting</p> <p>Minutes of the meeting of 10 October 2008 were agreed.</p>		
2	<p>Matters arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 4 (Jobcentre Plus update). JH is trying to arrange a meeting with Transport Direct to investigate printing public transport information on job interview letters. • Item 5 (Engagement in Wakefield). IG to inform Metro if support required to engage with LSP. 		<p>JH</p> <p>IG</p>
3	<p>Access to Health Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility Audits were completed for 13 hospital sites/ 5 NHS trusts, which resulted in a package of recommended improvements for LAs, Metro & Trusts • Information Strategy development included a review of existing provision & best practice and resulted in recommendations for Metro, PCTs, Trusts & others. 		

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4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action plans incorporating recommended access and information improvements have been agreed with 5 Hospital Trusts and some delivery already under way. Further work to be undertaken with PCTs and mental health trusts to look at options for access and information improvements. <p>It was queried if the partnership had a role in lobbying the local authorities and hospital trusts to improve their response to accessing hospital sites in poor weather conditions, specifically re: gritting and snow clearance. It was agreed that this matter would be raised with hospital and LAs.</p> <p>Use it or Lose it Services Update</p> <p>There was a short presentation on the progress made to date in funding use it or lose it bus services to access health, jobs and local shops and services.</p> <p>Feedback was sought on the focus of the funding to date – have services been delivered in the right places, have they addressed the right issues?</p> <p>Ideas for future use it or lose it services to be forwarded to Erica.ward@wypte.gov.uk</p> <p>The funding has also been used to fund bus services on Boxing day for two years running, with additional services being added in 2008, resulting in a 30% increase in patronage from 2007. There are aspirations to add even more services in 2009, to grow the patronage even further. In 2008 the services were operated on a flat fare basis at a cost of £2 per adult, with one child able to travel free with every adult.</p> <p>The group was asked for their views on a potential fare increase to £2.50 in 2009.</p> <p>The group were supportive of an increase if it helped to provide additional services. It was suggested that DfT should provide funding for this type of initiative, and the group was reminded that the Kickstart funding initiative could provide an opportunity to fund some new services.</p>		EW
	<p>5 LTP</p> <p>There was a presentation on the LTP progress report: www.wyltp.com/Monitoring/ProgressReporting.htm and feedback received from Government Office: www.wyltp.com/NR/rdonlyres/198A06BE-C889-42F7-8A0A-4CA73F9CE2C1/0/GOYHProgressReportResponseLetter.pdf</p> <p>Key points from the GOYH feedback were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive overall Key concern – bus delivery & patronage <p><u>Accessibility</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achievements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accessibility Partnership ...to build on Delivery – MetroLocal, Rail facilities, Hospital audits Comments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand reasons for Target underperformance Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More locally based targets Alignment with LAA indicators / objectives 		ALL

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	<p>LTP3</p> <p>DfT has recently issued consultation on its guidance for preparation of LTP3, details can be found on the LTP web site: www.wyltp.com/News The consultation is open until early April.</p> <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Integrated Transport Authority is responsible for LTP production & implementation, in consultation with LAs • 5 Transport goals replace 4 shared priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Tackle Climate Change – Support Economic Growth – Promote Equality of Opportunity – Contribute to Better Safety, Security & Health – Improve Quality of Life. • Contains Strategy & Implementation Plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 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 <p>The Accessibility Partnership will be a key stakeholder in developing LTP3.</p> <p>6 Local Accessibility Plans</p> <p>There was a presentation on this developing work area, which aims to produce Local Accessibility Action Plans which identify the key issues (top 3 priorities) and suggest appropriate solutions within local areas. It is anticipated that the issues and solutions will be identified and owned by the local communities.</p> <p>This approach is being developed for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p>Five pilots will be developed in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shipley Area Committee • Bradford North Area Committee • Calderdale Lower Valley Area Forum • Batley, Birstall and Birkenshaw Locality • North West Leeds (Outer) Area Committee <p>A methodology is being developed in consultation with local area coordinators</p>		

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	<p>and will include the following approaches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desktop research – local action plans etc • Accessibility mapping • Consultation with local communities • Prioritising issues • Identification of solutions and resources • Action planning <p>It was suggested that consultation through area committees may not reach the wider community, although it was agreed that locality workers should be aware of and able to include wider groups within their community.</p> <p>It was suggested that a very local approach to identifying issues may exclude wider access issues such as employment, education etc outside the local area. It was stressed that these areas would not be omitted, as this local approach to accessibility will be delivered alongside other, wider work to address accessibility issues.</p> <p>7 Travel Costs Discussion Item</p> <p>English National Concessionary Pass</p> <p>The English National Concessionary Pass, for older people & people with a disability provides free, off-peak, local bus travel throughout England after 9.30am Mon to Fri & all day at weekends and bank holidays.</p> <p>There are increasing demands for the removal of peak time restriction to enable pass holders to travel before 9.30am, for example to facilitate access to health appointments, access to education for disabled students.</p> <p>The group were asked for their thoughts on this matter. There was agreement that a removal of the time restriction could prove to be costly and would have a negative impact on commuters and others travelling in the already busy pre-9.30 period. It was suggested that more be done to encourage the health sector to make appointments post 9.30 for eligible pass holders.</p> <p>Job Seekers</p> <p>The cost of bus fares can affect travel to interviews and work.</p> <p>The Travel for Work Project is a three year partnership project which aims to address this travel cost barrier for jobseekers.</p> <p>To date over 1900 jobseekers have been assisted with a journey plan & free monthly MetroCard, and feedback from beneficiaries indicates that the project is having a positive impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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% are still in employment • 82% of those still in employment continue to commute by public transport and just 3% drive to work • 63% were more confident using public transport <p>Demand has been high in years 1 and 2, and as a result, Yorkshire Forward has provided funding for an additional 1500 tickets.</p> <p>Although funding for the project ends 2010, there is likely to be an ongoing demand in the context of increasing unemployment.</p>		

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	<p>The group was asked for their views on how the project could be continued post 2010.</p> <p>The project is seen as a very positive model for supporting jobseekers.</p> <p>It was suggested that LSPs and Regeneration boards in the districts be made more aware of the work done to date, as they area all currently looking at strategies to address impacts of the recession.</p> <p>It was agreed that more should be done to raise the profile of the Travel for Work support for jobseekers.</p> <p>Work Experience</p> <p>95% of secondary school students at key stage 4 take part in work experience schemes where they take up to two weeks out of school to gain experience in the workplace.</p> <p>Feedback indicates that the cost of travel to work placements can be a barrier to some families.</p> <p>Metro is liaising with work placement coordinators & schools to raise awareness of ticketing options, and has asked coordinators to report any specific problems to Metro. Consideration is being given to how Metro could offer support to students in cases of hardship.</p> <p>It was suggested responsibility for funding a solution should lie with the education sector rather than Metro.</p> <p>It was also suggested that students might need some support in travel planning journeys to work placement.</p> <p>IG agreed to find out more details of the issues and possible solutions in the Wakefield district.</p>		<p>EW</p> <p>IG</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>It was suggested that membership of the Accessibility Partnership could be increased through a recruitment drive supported by partners in the districts.</p> <p>It was agreed that a letter be drafted promoting the success of the travel for work project's access to employment activities, along with details of the accessibility partnership and a request for additional members to join the group.</p> <p>It was suggested that consideration be give to establishing additional sub groups of the partnership.</p> <p>Next Meetings</p> <p>Thursday 11 June</p> <p>Thursday 10 September</p> <p>Thursday 14 January 2010</p> <p>All 2- 4pm in Committee Room A, Wellington House</p>		<p>EW</p>