
Cabinet Public Transport Group

Thursday, 15th October 2015

Councillors: Councillor Miles Parkinson (Chair); Councillors Judith Addison, Clare Cleary, Munsif Dad, Bernard Dawson, and Tim O' Kane

LCC: Chris Anslow & County Councillor John Fillis (Cabinet Member for Highways & Transport)

Public Transport Organisations: Shaun Walmsley (General Manager- Transdev Lancashire) & Alan Pilkington (Pilkingtonbus)

Public User Representative: Robert Kenyon

Officers: Michael Cunliffe (Democratic Services) & Simon Prideaux (HBC Chief Planning & Transportation Officer)

1. Apologies for Absence, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

No apologies for absence had been submitted prior to the meeting.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting of the Cabinet Transport Group held on 12th March 2015, were submitted for approval as a correct record.

Agreed - That the minutes be received and approved as a correct record.

3. Matters Airing

There were no matters arising for discussion from the previous meeting.

4. Public User View

The Chair introduced Mr Robert Kenyon, a public user representative who was present at the meeting. He had submitted a written report which was circulated with the agenda.

A number of points in the report were discussed and answers provided to some of the questions and comments:

- The contractors proposed to hand over the bus station to LCC on the 22nd April 2016 although this was subject to change due to weather conditions impacting upon building works.
- Around one month would be required to finish the facility before public use and a date around the 22nd May 2016 had been proposed.
- Routes for buses had not been completed and consultations were taking place with operators.
- Real time information boards would be fitted in selected shelters throughout Hyndburn.
- A leasing agreement was being drafted with a view to a mobility service being provided and there was scope for a small coffee shop operation, similar to the one located in Accrington train station. LCC would produce a formal invitation process to allow for suitable bids to be presented for providing such a service.

The final question of the public user report asked what name was to be given to the new facility. The Chair, Councillor Miles Parkinson reported that discussions had taken place on this subject and it would be named after the late George Slynn, who had dedicated his life to public service and was a regular user of public transport. The Accrington Pals name would be used for the heritage square project which would be completed at a later date.

Shaun Walmsley, Operations Director for Transdev Lancashire provided information on the types of buses that may be in operation around the town centre.

Talks also took place about a bus being branded with Accrington Pals material to highlight the 100th year anniversary taking place in 2016.

Agreed - That the contents of the report and discussions be noted.

5. Pennine Reach- Update

Chris Anslow provided an update of the Pennine Reach scheme and the latest update on the project:

- All works in Rishton were complete after problems with the traffic light junction.
- The heritage bus shelter at Towngate in Great Harwood was part complete.
- A TRO was out for consultation for Sparth Road in Clayton le Moors and if approved work would commence in early January 2016.
- The Hare and Hounds junction was not yet finished and once completed would function differently.

Simon Prideaux reported that the car park on Canal Street was now complete and who would provide future maintenance as there was no obligation in the section 106 for upkeep of that area. A resident parking scheme was subject to approval and LCC would pay for the upkeep as the scheme was funded on an annual basis by residents via parking permits. The Chair added that the Clayton triangle was an important site and HBC would not want any obstacles to fail the development which had planning permission granted until May 2016.

Simon Prideaux added he was happy for the car parks to be maintained by LCC and be placed into the relevant contracts.

Councillor Tim O' Kane asked if the bus shelter at the Hare and Hounds junction was to be replaced and details were given about TRO for bus lanes being delayed until issues about residential parking and landowner negotiations had been completed.

The Chair enquired if the Greyhound traffic lights would be upgraded. It was reported that this work should now be completed although Alan Pilkington noted that with a change in road markings, it meant the lanes had been narrowed meaning two HGVs could not fit side by side in separate lanes.

Councillor Judith Addison commented on the bus stop opposite the Oswaldtwistle Civic Arts Centre and not having any sides to provide shelter. Chris Anslow reported that it could be due to the width of the pavement and would look into the matter.

The Church roundabouts were working well and a footpath would be completed once a CPO process had taken place with a landowner. Councillor Munsif Dad added the roundabouts seemed to be a good addition to the road network although one of the directional arrow lane markings was causing some confusion for drivers.

Agreed - That the verbal update be noted.

6. Accrington Bus Station- Update

Consultations had taken place about Accrington Town Centre with representations from the Chamber of Trade. This involved discussions on making Blackburn Road one way along with maximising parking spaces and the possibility of re-opening St James Street to traffic for vehicles travelling up Union Street. Heritage funding would see the refurbishment of buildings facing Accrington Town Hall and the development of a new square.

Work was taking place on King Street with improvements to the junction with Blackburn Road and the creation of entrance points to the new bus station. It would close again at the end of February 2016 to allow the station road layout to link in with the road network.

Agreed - That the verbal update be noted.

7. Railway Improvement- Church & Oswaldtwistle Station

Information attached to the agenda provided details from the Rotary Club of Church and Oswaldtwistle who had been upgrading the appearance of the local railway station.

After 12 months work the first phase was complete and the next part of the project would be to improve the subway area.

The Chair praised the efforts of community groups and noted the good work also done in Huncoat and Rishton at their railway stations.

Agreed - That the report and update be noted.

8. Northern Rail & Network Rail Update

No report or update had been submitted by Northern Rail and Network Rail who were both unable to be present at the meeting.

Mr Kenyon commented that with the Todmorden Curve now in operation there could be capacity to run services from Accrington to Manchester Victoria every 30 minutes in both circular directions if improvements were completed in the Bromley Cross area.

Councillor Dad reported that a piece of land at Paxton Street which belonged to Network Rail was overgrown and encroaching to the rear of shops located between the single viaduct arch and the junction with Paxton Street and Blackburn Road. This was causing a problem for the businesses located there with access issues to the back path for refuse purposes and the retaining wall looked to be in a dangerous condition.

Agreed - That the report be noted and details passed to Network Rail.

9. Other Business

Councillor Judith Addison commented that with all the Pennine Reach improvements, would the work undertaken be in vain if unauthorised parking continued along bus routes, such was the case on Blackburn Road at present between the single viaduct and junction of Willows Lane.

Chris Anslow reported that the Pennine Reach scheme would be providing an operation on illegal parking on selected routes which impact upon bus operations. Shaun Walmsley added that it was difficult to enforce as there was a small period of time to issue a ticket lawfully.

County Councillor John Fillis provided the meeting with information on rural bus services and how these would be supported in the future by bus companies and local parishes with a reduction in subsidies.

Mr Kenyon reported on successful case study in Cumbria where a parish provides a cost effective operation due to the use of smaller vehicles and local knowledge around timetable issues.

10. Date/Time of next meeting

The Chair reported that the next meeting of the Hyndburn Cabinet Public Transport Group would be arranged around late February or early March 2016 and all interested parties would be informed when a date and time are confirmed.

Signed:

Date:

Chair of the meeting
at which the minutes were confirmed.