

## York Bus Forum Meeting Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022 17.30 by Zoom

Attending; Doreen Magill (Chair), Graham Collett (Vice Chair), Niall McFerran (Secretary), Dave Merrett, Roger French (Finance and Membership), Alan Robinson, Flick Williams, John Slaughter, John Bibby, Lionel Lennox, Roger Pierce, Jim Harbus, Michael Howard, Richard Parker, Iris Wells, David Stuart, Duncan Millar and John Bibby.

1. DMag. Welcomed delegates to the meeting and reported apologies from; Gail Shuttleworth, Brandon Jones, Cathy Croston, Glen Simpson, George Wood, Kevin Fradley and Eden Blyth.
2. Minutes of April meeting approved, the matters arising were.  
GC reported that the York Older Persons assembly were surveying their members regarding bus usage post-pandemic, as they have 1,200 members the results will be interesting.  
GC also advised MH that he is awaiting a response from CYC regarding the capacity of the new electric buses. MH promised a response if GC resend original request to him. **Action:** GC to send request to MH
3. BSIP progress -  
GC reported that the DfT had re-iterated their conditions for BSIP and EP progress that these must contain plans for more bus priority streets.  
MH confirmed that the conditional award of £17.34M would be allocated to capital and revenue projects. A summary plan of the intended projects had been supplied to DfT on 3<sup>rd</sup> May and a response is awaited. This will then have to be rapidly approved as the final document must be submitted by end of June. The current submission follows the list of 'asks' in the BSIP proposal, with "some numbers changed" MH advised. When approved there will be a spending period of 2.5 years.  
NM asked when the public would be included in the process. MH said that there was a desire to involve key interest groups, but time will be tight.  
GC asked if we could receive a copy of the summary table?  
DMag. suggested again that lack of public consultation is unfortunate.  
MH confirmed that the final BSIP plan to be submitted at the end of June would include the EP proposal as the two processes are inter-linked. He recognised that the EP process would benefit from further consultation, but this was at CYC discretion.  
GC asked if the proposed reduction in funding at P&R sites was justified? MH said it was necessary to display value. GC asked if bus priority measures will receive full funding? MH replied it is in BSIP.  
NM again pressed on EP plan as we have concerns over representation and governance. MH replied that the plan is currently with the operators whose approval is key. NM promised we are ready to supply a rapid input, when ready.  
City centre Bus Access Study – MH advised it is with contractors and again has a tight timeline of end of June/early July for next step.  
MH advised that the support funding for bus operators will shortly change and that CYC are awaiting information from operators regarding service levels and passenger numbers. There is a requirement now to provide a "Stable and resilient" bus network.

The ZEBRA project is progressing with First providing matched funding to help supply 44 new vehicles. Trials of the buses are being carried out in Leeds.

MH also reported that work is underway to provide a tap on/tap off fare facility on buses in York. This follows a grant from DfT and assistance from Transport for the North.

DMag asked if this will apply across all operators? MH responded yes.

4. Recent meetings –

GC reported meetings with YCT regarding Local Plan were progressing and the Inquiry sessions were being attended.

At the last Committee meeting, Flick Williams had agreed to serve on the group as a Disabled Issues officer.

The issue of hybrid meetings is still under consideration.

Following a meeting with the DfT the YBF will be making a submission of the end of the sale of non-zero emission buses.

The website is being continually improved by DMag.

DMag and NM had a meeting with Chris Titley of Yorkmix who is very interested in featuring pieces from our group. This could include using his readership base to assess the key bus issues, aiding public consultation.

5. Presentation by Tom Druitt of The Big Lemon Company, Brighton.

He reported 15 years of experience building a bus business in and around Brighton using sustainable vehicles and improving passenger experiences through local consultation and improved driver training.

The constant challenge in Brighton and York is to get car users onto public transport. Fare competitiveness is key feature so is local involvement as passenger and investor.

The buses were originally run using waste cooking oil, but now powered by Solar energy from panels on the bus depot roof. They also keen to collaborate with other transport providers such as bike hire businesses in the town.

The business aims is to generate zero transmissions and encourage users to transition to better means of transport in Brighton.

RP asked how is passenger experience better? TD said driver training and listening to passengers is key. Clean buses and clear information is also very important.

JB how did competition react? Yes, they initially felt threatened and the Local Authority was unhelpful at first as there was a close relationship with existing suppliers in QBP.

FW do you use service users in your training who have disabilities? TD good point.

NM asked about operation scale, whether it is intended to grow or create local franchises outside Brighton? TD said yes, he was keen to share experience but felt small was best as it keeps company in touch with users. Many bus companies are local family run businesses, and these could benefit from Big Lemon knowledge.

GC asked if Brighton and York are similar, TD felt they shared similarities.

DMag asked if passenger numbers had recovered post pandemic? TD responded that they had but changes in travel meant that they would have to appeal to more car

users for growth. The important element is to ensure that the fare is cheaper than 3 hours parking.

6. AOB –

NM pointed out the installation of the new bus stop in Fulford with an information screen and audible notice of approaching buses. He asked for feedback. FW commented that this was much better than others.

Richard parker reported that the bus timetable boards in Peasholm Green have still not been updates. **Action:** DMag agreed to remind CYC.

RP asked if Hail and Ride schemes were considered in York? Yes, but on limited scale.

7. Date of next meeting Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June