**York Bus Forum – Members Monthly Meeting 17.30-19.00 Tuesday 19th November 2024, by Zoom**

Attending: Doreen Magill, Niall McFerran (Vice Chair), Andy D’Agorne (Secretary), Roger French (Finance and Membership), Dave Merrett, Toby Hart, Graham Collett, Richard Parker, Flick Williams, Tony Hudson, Catherine Odell, Glen Simpson, Stuart Fillingham (EY Buses), Wayne Blackburn, Anna Courtier (First Bus), David Stuart, Duncan Miller, Eden Blyth, Diana Robinson, Gordon Campbell-Thomas, Jim Forrest (HARBUS), Councillor Stephen Fenton, Jason Murgatroyd, Diana Robinson, George Wood, Judy Illing, Nick Murray (Knapton and Rufforth P.C.), Dee Boyle, Barry Connor, Ruth Annison, John Slaughter (HARBUS), Ian Craven(Haxby Town Council), David Hern (North Yorkshire and York Mayoralty), Christine Cooke, Debby Cobbett, Ian Anderson, Iris Wells, Julian Ridge (CYC), Lionel Lennox, John Hart, Andy Farndale, and Terry French.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Doreen Magill welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies had been received from, Gail Shuttleworth, Robin Jorimann, Mary Cannon and Tom Horner (CYC).

1. David Hern Regional Transport Manager Y+NY Combined Authority explained that all responsibilities and funding for bus services for 2024-25 had been delegated back to the two existing authorities, but they are keen to ensure this does not extend beyond March 2025. SYSTRA have been commissioned to prepare a report on governance options from Apr2025. An internal report would be produced by the end of January but not public at that stage. David was asked if there is a bus map for all of N Yorkshire equivalent to the one published for York. The only one he was aware of was the draft for potential routes produced by Jonathan Tyler. Dales and Moors bus produce them for their services.

Richard Parker observed that the West Yorkshire Combined Authority printed timetables, without operators named, and asked encouraged the new Combined Authority to follow their example. David Hern agreed to note the suggestion.

Stephen Fenton and Andy D’Agorne asked about the budget process, in particular concerns that CYC’s current consultation asks for views in reducing the £720k annual subsidy that supports several evening and rural services. There was concern that both York and N Yorkshire councils might be looking for savings in these areas with this not being replaced or preferably increased through Mayoral/ BSIP funding.

David Hern thanked Stephen and Andy for raising the issue as he had not been aware of the supported services consultation issue and he indicated that the Mayor was unlikely to happy if funding was reduced in the interim. From April the Mayor will have ‘oversight and control’ of budget for bus services.

Diana Robinson asked if he was aware of KPMG study on mobility as a service. David said they were engaging with a wide range of active travel organisations in the area. Also the Mayor has committed to appointing an Active Travel Commissioner.

On the bus fare cap he said there is ‘a real challenge’ because the N Yorkshire doesn’t have a precept like in Manchester. Niall McFerran asked whether unspent BSIP funds at Apr 2025 would transfer to the Mayor. Julian Ridge said they wouldn’t have to be returned to DfT. Julian thought that operational delivery of infrastructure projects within York would remain with CYC. JR responded to the question of local funding of the gap that would exist to hold the £2 cap rather than it increasing to £3 suggesting that this could cost up to £4m which would only leave about £1.5m total to continue supporting uneconomic routes across York and N Yorkshire.

Graham Collett asked about the HS2 unspent monies fund and David Hern indicted there would be a single capital Integrated Transport block from central government – as yet there are no signs of what criteria might be to use this money. Julian Ridge said multi- year settlements would help transport authorities to plan better. Eden Blyth asked about whether bus funding would be as good as in previous years. Julian said 25-26 likely to be £5m.capital for York and N Yorkshire, £125k BSIP Capacity and Capability for York plus the BSIP4 recently announced £6.4m for York and North Yorkshire

Reference was made to an article on DfT website News indicating a further £1bn. to be allocated for buses across England with links to ~~a~~ table of council allocations.

David Hern asked whether York Bus Forum might be willing to expand remit to cover all of N Yorkshire whilst acknowledging that Moorsbus and Hambleton and Richmond Bus Users were members of York Bus Forum and represented at the meeting?

3 October minutes – no matters arising or corrections.

4 Enhanced Partnership forum was cancelled due to Haxby by-election

5 York Bus issues – Tom Horner not present to respond and his promised update report to the meeting had not been received.

Stephen Fenton reported that the Dial a ride scrutiny report has not yet been tabled to the Executive. Prior to the service ending last December CYC had a £98k annual budget to support this, still £48k available. Need for the service is identified in the Transport Strategy.

City centre bus stops – some members of committee did a walk about with CYC officers and identified a number of issues several months ago and a response was still awaited.

Paper timetables at stops and notice of diversions resulting in buses not serving particular stops remains a concern. Julian Ridge explained that emergency utility works give little chance to put up physical notices, planned works should be covered by the operators or (within inner ring road) the council (all set out in BSIP contract, but clearly still an issue of operators not doing it and passengers suffering as a result) Julian undertook to remind colleagues at CYC of the respective responsibilities.

Stuart Fillingham offered to raise the matter at the next Operational Delivery Group as a number of operators had relatively new managers who may not be fully aware of their obligations.

IC identified this issue had affected 1,1a,13,20 with diversions in Haxby.

Graham Collett raised the issue of the number of timetable changes and said the aim must be to get to an agreed minimum to avoid confusion for bus users.

It was noted that the issue of 412 services to Knapton was still awaiting a response after several months.

Park and Ride tender- again this issue has been outstanding for several months and an update is awaited

Neil McFerran expressed the hope that accessible toilets would be upgraded at the Park and Ride sites as part of the capital expenditure plans.

6 First Bus issues

Real time on bus audio visual indicators on Park and Ride services still not fixed. A software issue that Anna Courtier indicated that First are working to resolve.

Judy Illing said there were still issues with buses between 9am and 9.30 not turning up resulting people driving to work to be on time and Ian Craven raised the issue of 1 and 1a not taking correct route in Haxby which Wayne Blackburn indicated may be down to driver error.

Reference was made to the public meeting held on the Monday 11th November at Bishopthorpe to discuss the running of the no 11 via Bishopthorpe and South Bank. Anna Courtier reported that First Bus Manager Joel Bradley had taken away a number of points to look into, (Note post meeting feedback bus users encountering issues in the area re the 11 were asked to log time, date and issue with Councillor Mike Nicholls).

7 Transdev issues

Diana Robinson reported that the issues raised at the last meeting re the running of the 19 service were still occurring.

Graham Collett reported that, when it ran the new York Clifford Street to Leeds service was a useful addition to the timetable but there were issues of unreliability due to cancellations as he had experienced on Monday 18th November and Transdev were not notifying customers of cancellations on the information screens.

Doreen Magill informed members that a delegation from the Committee were meeting Transdev on Friday and asked members to email her with any issues they were aware of.

8. East Yorkshire

Stuart Fillingham reported that operators had agreed to accept each other’s permits for Mobility Scooters and sign off from the Confederation of Passenger Transport was now being sought so the scheme could be introduced.

Next YBF meeting Dec 17th 5.30pm which will be a Members’ issues meeting without speaker.