York Bus Forum Meeting Oct 15th 2024

Chair: Niall McFerran Minutes: Andy D’Agorne.

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed 31 present to the meeting and noted apologies from : Gail Shuttleworth, Roger Backhouse, Carole Greene, Mary Cannon, Doreen Magill, Diana Robinson, Judy Illing, Tom Horner (CYC)

1. Presentation Louise Cheeseman, “Women in the Transport Industry”

Louise Cheeseman gave an impressive account of her career rising from a train guard with Hull Trains to Managing Director of Hull Trains and Director of Buses for Transport for London. She helped to establish ‘Women in Rail’ and is now Chair of ‘Women in Bus and Coach’ which had its first meeting in June 2023 with the northern region branch being launched recently.

She gave an account of the significance of branding and innovation in establishing the London outer circle ‘superloop’ bus service with Sadiq Khan offering a very clear long-term plan for Transport in the capital. Innovations include the 358 Crystal Palace service with on route charging and the Kings Cross route 63 service offering high quality vehicles. Experience showed that up to 18months is needed to see significant response in increased patronage.

Recruiting more women has been an important part of tackling the staffing shortage in the industry post covid, as well as securing women directors on the boards of operators and changes to ensure a more inclusive industry.

Questions followed and topics included how Louise in her role engage with the Disabled Community, how the Mayor developed a clear Transport Plan with bus services dovetailing with Rail and other transport in London, the use of bus timetables, apps and websites to promote bus services, how to engage young people and encourage them to use the bus rather than aspire to car ownership, and facilities for bus drivers at London depots which Louise admitted were not always ideal and gave an example that was far from being so.

1. Minutes of 17th September and matters arising not elsewhere on the Agenda.

Matters arising.

It was noted that the nos. 3 and 4 had been diverted inward bound on Tuesday 15th October... Anna Courtier (First Bus) said it was an ‘operational decision’ following liaison with the station frontage project team. Niall said he has emailed Tom Horner to question why this has happened given the commitment made last month that the services would still call at the station.

Correction to last month’s minutes-the Wayne in attendance was Wayne Blackburn.

1. Enhanced Partnership (EP) Meeting 9th October 2024

Niall explained that the EP Forum meeting on Oct 9th was cancelled and meetings would in future be every second month, with a commitment that there would instead be longer meetings to give the opportunity for detailed discussions.

1. City of York Council issues

Niall explained that due to unforeseen circumstances Tom Horner had had to send apologies at short notice so the agenda items 5a) to 5g) were largely held over.

Confirmation was received in the meeting that East Yorkshire would be taking over the no 14 route.5g) refers

Discussion tool place on the future of the £2 fare cap after Dec 2024 and Stuart Fillingham informed the meeting that operators are being consulted by Ernst Young on behalf of DfT with a £2.50 or £3 cap seeming to be most likely.

Members reported that the issue of bus diversions during road works are still an issue of concern because no one is putting up notices on stops that are temporarily missed out by the route (examples given included the 13 and 1a in Haxby)

1. First Bus Issues

Prior to the meeting, an update on issues 6a) to 6e) had been provided by Anna Courtier and circulated to members.

1. Transdev

Niall reported that service 25 is now following its correct route.

Dee Boyle raised concerns at Rawcliffe Parish Council that service 19 is very unreliable with instances of having to wait 90 minutes and residents giving up using it. This has been blamed on works on Leeman Road and delays at the station.

1. East Yorkshire

Stuart Fillingham reported a 40% growth in service on the x46 since they moved to a half hourly service. In November services between Market Weighton and York will be boosted to every 20 minutes with a new x45 service calling into Dunnington and a continuing commitment to a clock face timetable..

Tom Donnelly updated members on the progress on the accreditation process for Class 2 Mobility Scooters with an expectation that in the next couple of weeks East Yorkshire would have an agreement in place to accept passes from other operators though training for East Yorkshire staff would take longer.

Next meeting**: Nov 19th 5.30pm** Guest speaker David Hearn Head of Transport York and N Yorks Combined Authority.