

Integrated Transport Thematic Group Meeting

Tuesday 15th May 2012, 10am, Cabinet & Committee Room

Attendance

Chair: Cllr Martin Forshaw (WLBC), Dominic Carr (WLBC), Jacqueline Day (LCC), Ashley Wier (LCC) Derek Sarath (WLCVS)

1. Apologies

Francis Carragher (Edge Hill), Ian Gill (WLBC), Gillian Whitfield (WLBC), Martin Trengove (CVS), Steve Coveney (CLPCT), Denise Nowell (LCC), Cllr Bell (OPSTA), Tim Gornall (LCC), Julia Dickinson (Edge Hill University)

Dominic Carr explained that due to staffing resources at LCC Denise Nowell would no longer be able to attend future meetings.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting on the 9th November 2011 were agreed as an accurate record

3. Matters Arising

Derek Sarath said that following Cllr Bells comments at the last meeting he believed that the group could explore using the LSTF to fund public transport promotional literature. Derek explained that he believed that there was funding available from the LSTF which could be used for this purpose. Derek further explained that he was hoping to approach some Parish Council's to explore this further.

4. Skelmersdale rail link business case development.

Dominic Carr explained that officers were still waiting for an additional piece of work to be completed by Network Rail before the study can be formally published. He explained that Merseytravel had agreed to approach Network Rail some time ago and that officers were disappointed that we have had no update from Merseytravel. As such, the Borough Council is going to send out a formal letter to a senior Merseytravel officer raising concerns about the lack of progress regarding this additional piece of work. It is hoped this letter will raise the profile of the scheme within Merseytravel.

Cllr Forshaw said that he believes it was important that this letter is sent out and that progress is made regarding this scheme.

Action- A formal letter be sent to Merseytravel raising concerns on behalf of the Borough Council

5. Community Rail Designation of the Preston to Ormskirk Line

Dominic Carr explained that following the successful community rail designation of the Ormskirk to Preston line the community rail partnership is working hard to finalise an action plan for the route. He explained that in December 2011 changes had been made to the timetable of the route and that these changes made the service more regular with key services now every one and a half hours, he also explained that there was now some later services. It is hoped this improvement in service provision will help to increase passenger numbers on this route.

He also explained that one of the aspirations was to introduce an hourly service on this route.

Cllr Forshaw asked if we had any figures to show if the new service was increasing passenger service.

Dominic Carr explained that the CRP does get some figures with regards to passenger numbers and that he would provide these or give an overview of passenger numbers at the next meeting.

Action Dominic Carr to review passenger numbers on the Ormskirk to Preston line for next meeting.

6. Skelmersdale Demand Responsive Transport System Update

Dominic Carr and Jacqueline Day gave an update of the current position explaining that following Cabinet approval to release S106 funding for this scheme they are now in a position to introduce a pilot scheme for the service on Monday 21st May. They explained that a taxi operator had now been appointed and that initial responses from organisations were positive.

Cllr Forshaw asked questions about the scheme focusing on how the scheme had been developed and who the scheme was likely to help. Cllr Forshaw explained that he believed this and other transport schemes the Council are working on should help the residents within the Borough access employment and other opportunities.

Action- Officers to continue to work with LCC to develop the alternative Demand Responsive Transport System and get a pilot operation running before summer 2012

7. Action plan progress: review and update

Dominic Carr produced enclosure 2 showing the Action Plan for the group. He asked if the group were in agreement with the proposed changes.

The group agreed to the proposed changes and that the recommendations could be taken forward as the Action Plan for 2012/13

8. Information Exchange

- Dominic Carr and Derek Sarath discussed the progress made on the LSTF
- Dominic Carr gave an update regarding the Environmental Overview & Scrutiny and their cycling in West Lancashire project. Cllr Forshaw said that he was looking forward to the recommendations of this project being fed through to Cabinet.

9. Any Other Business

Ashley Wier (LCC) explained that following requests off Borough Cllrs he had been approached about looking to improve some bus services in Skelmersdale. Ashley explained that as bus services were being retendered there was an opportunity to maximise value for money and get improved bus services.

In particular the 3A Ormskirk- Burscough- Skelmersdale- Wrightington Service
From the 6 June LCC will revise the timetable with time adjustments to certain morning journeys.

The 18.15 and 19.15 Monday to Saturday departures from Skelmersdale to Burscough and Ormskirk will additionally divert through Birch Green and Ashurst to provide later return journeys to these areas. Holmeswood Coaches Ltd will take over operation of this service on behalf of Lancashire County Council.

Service 5 Ormskirk- Town Green Circular

From 6 June 2012 Lancashire County Council will revise the timetable and renumber from service 75. This circular service will now run hourly at all times on a Monday to Saturday daytime basis. Holmeswood Coaches Ltd will continue the operation of these services on behalf of Lancashire County Council

Service 6 Ormskirk –Scott Estate Circular

From 6 June 2012 Lancashire County Council will revise the timetable and renumber from service 76. This circular service will now run hourly at all times on a Monday to Saturday daytime basis

Holmeswood Coaches Ltd will continue operation of this service on behalf of Lancashire County Council.

Sunday Service to Liverpool

The County Council are exploring the principle of introducing additional Sunday services to Liverpool, however as this is a cross boundary issues it will need further investigating.

Dominic Carr gave an update regarding:

Skelmersdale Pilot Project in which LCC and the Borough Council working together to develop a scheme to improve accessibility and the environment in Skelmersdale using LTP3 and other funding.

Reviewing Skelmersdale Cycle Strategy using S106 monies- Council and County officers are working together to develop a comprehensive cycle strategy for Skelmersdale.

9. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Meeting to be within the next 6 months

Action- Dominic Carr to schedule the next meeting