

## Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

### Report to Scrutiny Board (City Development)

**Date: 27 April 2016**

### **Subject: Inquiry into Bus Service Provision – Session 4**

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

### Summary of main issues

1. The Scrutiny Board at its meeting on the 17th of June 2015 resolved to undertake an inquiry to consider bus service provision.
2. The Board expressed a desire to have a clear understanding of current provision and how this supports our objectives as a Council to connect residents and visitors to employment, training, culture and leisure and support the economic prosperity of the city. Whilst undertaking the inquiry the Board also wish to understand the current and future options for bus service provision in the city and consider what would be most beneficial for Leeds.
3. The purpose of this inquiry is to make an assessment of and, where appropriate, make recommendations on the following areas:
  - The provision and connectivity of Bus Services in Leeds, including services into the Leeds area and sufficiency to meet the needs of people and business.
  - Current impact of bus services on social inclusion, poverty and the economy
  - Options for improving local bus services
  - Investment and the delivery of strategic and operational improvement in bus services
  - Consultation on the Bus Bill

4. The January, February and March Scrutiny meetings provided the opportunity to consider:
  - De-regulation and the West Yorkshire bus context
  - Key Achievements
  - Role of the Highway Authority & WYCA in the Bus System
  - Bus Services and the economy
  - Bus Strategy and Single Transport Plan, including Public and Stakeholder consultation.
  - Partnership and Quality Contract Legislation
  - The views of stakeholders
5. The focus of this session is to explore the view of operators and operator representatives. Three organisations have been invited to the meeting to provide advice, contribute to debate and answer questions; these are the Association of Bus Operators in West Yorkshire (ABOWY), Tower Transit and HTC Group.

### **Recommendations**

6. The Scrutiny Board is requested to note this report and information provided during discussion on the 27<sup>th</sup> April and make recommendations as deemed appropriate.

## **1 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 This report provides information about the focus of the 4th session and provides an overview of the organisations contributing to the inquiry at this session.

## **2 Main issues**

- 2.2 The 4<sup>th</sup> session of the inquiry provides an opportunity for the Scrutiny Board to receive expert advice about bus services in Leeds, the current bus offer and options for improving local bus services. Representatives from three organisations have been invited to the meeting to provide advice, contribute to debate and answer questions.
- 2.3 ABOWY – ABOWY represents operators of all sizes including Arriva, BL Travel, Centrebus, First, Godsons Coaches, Harrogate Coach Travel, M Travel, Red Line Buses, Ross Travel, Stagecoach, TLC, Transdev and Utopia. Their aim is to ensure that the future of public transport in West Yorkshire is one that everyone can be proud of. ABOWY have produced a charter which defines three key objectives for the region. To inform the Scrutiny Board of their priorities this is attached as appendix 1.
- 2.4 Tower Transit – The Tower Transit operation in London is a part of the Tower Transit Group. Established in 2013, the Group currently employs 2,030 staff and operates 650 buses, with 1,700 staff and 450 buses operating within the TfL London operation. In May 2016, the Group will increase by a further 900 staff and 380 buses when the Tower Transit Singapore operation commences. Their vision is to be the best and most respected provider of London Bus Services.
- 2.5 HTC Group – HCT Group is a social enterprise in the transport industry, providing over 20 million passenger trips every year. They currently run access buses in Leeds and have a depot in the city. HTC deliver a range of transport services such as London red buses, social services transport, school transport and park and ride. They reinvest the profits from their commercial work into further transport services or projects in the communities they serve. Further information provided by HTC group to support the inquiry is attached as appendix 2 and 3.
- 2.6 All operators and operator representatives attending have been invited to provide written information which may support this inquiry therefore further supplementary information may be supplied in advance of the meeting.

## **3 Corporate Considerations**

### **3.1 Consultation and Engagement**

- 3.1.1 The purpose of this session is to obtain the views of bus operators and operator representatives. Should the Scrutiny Board consider that further engagement is required this will be undertaken during the next municipal year.

### **3.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration**

- 3.2.1 Equality and diversity will be a consideration throughout the Scrutiny Inquiry and due regard will be given to equality through the use of evidence, written and verbal, outcomes from consultation and engagement activities. Where a potential impact has been identified this will be reflected in the final inquiry report, post inquiry.

### **3.3 Council policies and Best Council Plan**

- 3.3.1 This inquiry will support objectives as defined in The Vision for Leeds 2011 – 2030 and the Best Council Plan 2015-20

### **3.4 Resources and value for money**

- 3.4.1 This report has no specific resource and value for money implications

### **3.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In**

- 3.5.1 This report has no specific legal or access to information implications

### **3.6 Risk Management**

- 3.6.1 This report has no risk management implications.

## **4 Recommendations**

- 4.1 The Scrutiny Board is requested to note this report and information provided during discussion on the 27<sup>th</sup> April and make recommendations as deemed appropriate.

## **5 Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

None

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.