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**Report to:** Transport Committee

**Date:** 9 November 2018

**Subject:** **Future of Bus 18**

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| Is this a key decision?   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Does the report contain confidential or exempt information or appendices?               | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| If relevant, state paragraph number of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, Part 1: |   |

## 1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To provide an update on Bus 18 and propose the next steps for moving towards a formal alliance with bus operators. This paper provides an introduction to the presentation that will be given to Transport Committee on the 9 November setting out the strengths and weaknesses of Bus 18, as well as a proposed way forward to build on this working relationship.

## 2. Information

- 2.1 Bus 18 has demonstrated effective collaboration between bus operators and the Combined Authority. It established a set of pledges and a programme of work supported by an informal and flexible leadership.
- 2.2 It developed a shared purpose and momentum to improve bus services in the region and has enjoyed modest success in this regard. For example, MyDay, was launched in July 2018 as the new all-day £2.60 county-wide bus ticket for West Yorkshire's under 19s, replacing the current half metro day ticket. In August 2018 15,300 tickets were sold, whereas 12,000 equivalent tickets were sold in the same period last year.
- 2.3 Bus 18 was a time limited programme, which is due to end in December 2018.

- 2.4 During this period, significant public investment in bus infrastructure has been identified through the West Yorkshire + Transport Fund and Connecting Leeds (Leeds Public Transport Investment Programme -LPTIP). It is vital to match this investment with tangible service improvements.
- 2.5 A level of commitment and accountability is needed to the way in which the public and private sector collaborates to stimulate a stronger role for the bus throughout the region. This would suggest a formal partnership structure would be the best way of moving forward.
- 2.6 The Bus Services Act 2017 provides for Advanced Quality Partnership, Enhanced Partnerships and franchising; all are relatively new, untested, provisions. It is proposed that in the short term focus is placed on making tangible improvements for the customer rather than the negotiations and legal process needed to establish a statutory arrangement.
- 2.7 It is therefore proposed that Bus 18 should move towards a non-statutory alliance (technically known as a voluntary partnership) with a view to migrating to a statutory partnership model as it matures.
- 2.8 A timescale of 2019 to 2021 is proposed. This ties closely to the timescales set for the investment programmes. It also matches the CA's budget plan and programme to transform its interventions in the bus services. Three years is a realistic timescale within which a tangible step change in the quality of service can be provided to the bus passenger.
- 2.9 This Alliance will provide a set of Heads of Terms, a delivery plan and what the customer can expect by 2021. The presentation will summarise these and seek input and advice from the Transport Committee. .

### **3. Financial Implications**

- 3.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

### **4. Legal Implications**

- 4.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

### **5. Staffing Implications**

- 5.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

### **6. External Consultees**

- 6.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

**7. Recommendations**

- 7.1 That the heads of terms and delivery plan of an alliance between the Combined Authority and bus operators be developed and presented to the next meeting of the Transport Committee for adoption.

**8. Background Documents**

- 8.1 No background documents are provided at this time.

**9. Appendices**

- 9.1 Appendix 1 contains the presentation.