

Advancing Bus Provision

Date: 24 November 2021

Report of: Head of Democratic Services

Report to: Scrutiny Board (Infrastructure, Investment & Inclusive Growth)

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

What is this report about?

Including how it contributes to the city's and council's ambitions

- An inquiry into Advancing Bus Service Provision was undertaken by the Scrutiny Board (City Development) between January and October 2016. The scope of the inquiry and its findings were set out in the final report, which was published in May 2017. In July 2017, the Scrutiny Board received a formal response to the recommendations arising from this review.
- The current Scrutiny Board committed to continue to track the progress of the 2017 recommendations and a formal update is provided at **Appendix 2**.
- The local and national policy context for these discussions has evolved since 2017. In February 2021, Government set out its National Bus Strategy and required all Local Transport Authorities to set out plans for bus services in a Bus Services Improvement Plan (BSIP) to be submitted by October 2021.
- In November 2021 West Yorkshire Combined Authority published its Bus Service Improvement Plan, which has been developed through close working with bus operators. This is attached at **Appendix 3**.
- Since the Board last discussed the progress of the inquiry's recommendations regarding bus provision, West Yorkshire has elected its first Mayor, whose devolved powers include significant transport functions including easier access to bus franchising.
- Sustainable transport remains a key priority for the Board from the perspective of improving connectivity to better link communities with education, training and employment opportunities, supporting wider inclusive growth ambitions and contributing to the Council's response to the declared climate emergency.
- The on-going monitoring of these recommendations also reflects an engagement with Leeds City Council's specific [Best City Ambition](#) to improve transport connections, safety, reliability and affordability. The sustainable infrastructure ambitions set out in the Best Council Plan form part of the Council's wider drive to tackle poverty and reduce inequalities.

Recommendations

- a) Members are asked to note and comment upon the progress against the tracking recommendations detailed in Appendix 2, and to determine a monitoring status for each one.
- b) Members are further asked to note the WYCA Bus Improvement Plan, which was published on 1 November and is attached at **Appendix 3**.
- c) Members are asked to confirm their preferred approach to the Board's future engagement in this agenda.

Why is the proposal being put forward?

- 1 This report sets out the progress made in responding to the recommendations arising from the Scrutiny inquiry into Advancing Bus Service Provision.
- 2 Scrutiny Boards are encouraged to clearly identify desired outcomes linked to their recommendations to show the added value Scrutiny brings. As such, it is important for the Scrutiny Board to also consider whether its recommendations are still relevant in terms of achieving the associated desired outcomes.
- 3 The Scrutiny recommendation tracking system allows the Scrutiny Board to consider the position status of its recommendations in terms of their on-going relevance and the progress made in implementing the recommendations based on a standard set of criteria. The Board will then identify further action as appropriate.
- 4 Progress in implementing the recommendations of the Advancing Bus Provision inquiry was last considered by the Scrutiny Board on 14 October 2020. Recommendation 3 had already been agreed as achieved in April 2018 and in October the Board determined that progress against the remaining recommendations was acceptable and members would continue to monitor activity.
- 5 Recent progress against each recommendation is set out within the table at Appendix 2. There is also a standard set of criteria presented in the form of a flow chart at Appendix 1. The questions in the flow chart should help to decide whether a recommendation has been completed and if not whether further action is required

What impact will this proposal have?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

- 6 The development of more sustainable city-wide transport infrastructure, of which improved bus service provision is a part, will impact upon residents throughout Leeds. Engagement with this agenda remains a key priority for the Scrutiny Board.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

- 7 Where internal or external consultation processes have been undertaken with regard to responding to the Scrutiny Board's recommendations, details of any such consultation will be referenced against the relevant recommendation within the table at Appendix 2.

What are the resource implications?

- 8 There are no direct resource implications attached to the recommendation tracking process.

What are the legal implications?

- 9 There are no direct legal implications associated with the recommendation tracking process.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 10 There are no risk management concerns associated with the recommendation tracking process.

Does this proposal support the council's three Key Pillars?

- Inclusive Growth Health and Wellbeing Climate Emergency

- 11 The inquiry and the subsequent monitoring of its recommendations is set in the context of the Best Council and Best City Ambitions, including the Council's three key pillars.

Options, timescales and measuring success

a) What other options were considered?

- 12 The report sets out progress against the recommendations of the original inquiry and directs members to the Bus Service Improvement Plan published by WYCA in November 2021.

b) How will success be measured?

- 13 Monitoring of each recommendation will be determined by the Board.

c) What is the timetable for implementation?

- 14 Timescales and format for ongoing monitoring of the recommendations that emerged from the 2017 inquiry will be determined by Board members.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Recommendation tracking criteria presented in the form of a flow chart

Appendix 2: Recommendation tracking

Appendix 3: WYCA Bus Service Improvement Plan (2021)

Background papers

- 15 Advancing Bus Provision Inquiry Report (2017)