

Advancing Bus Provision

Date: 2 November 2022

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) in 2016/17. Successor Scrutiny Boards continued to track the progress of the 2017 recommendations until November 2021. For information the 2021 recommendation tracking report can be found here: [24 November 2021 IIG Scrutiny Board Agenda](#)
- Since that original 2017 inquiry, the local and national policy context for these discussions has evolved significantly. This includes the election of the first West Yorkshire Mayor in May 2021, whose devolved powers include significant transport functions such as easier access to bus franchising.
- In February 2021, the Government produced its National Bus Strategy and required all Local Transport Authorities to set out plans for bus services in a Bus Services Improvement Plan (BSIP). In October 2021 the West Yorkshire Combined Authority published its Bus Service Improvement Plan, which was developed through close working with bus operators. This is attached at **Appendix 3**. In April 2022 the Department for Transport advised WYCA of its success in securing an indicative settlement to support delivery of the BSIP.
- Given the national and local developments in the sector since 2017, the attached update report has also evolved from its previous format to reflect a broader range of current issues.
- Consideration of bus provision within the Board's work schedule reflects an ongoing interest from members in 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.
- Separately, the Scrutiny Board received an update on the progress of schemes within the Connecting Leeds, [Leeds Public Transport Investment Programme](#) (LPTIP) between April 2017 and completion on site in July 2022.

Recommendations

- a) Members are asked to note and comment upon the attached appendices.

Why is the proposal being put forward?

- 1 At the request of the Scrutiny Board the attached report from the WYCA Director (Transport and Property Services) provides an update about on-going activities by West Yorkshire Combined Authority to advance bus provision across the region.
- 2 The report summarises some of the key issues reported to meetings of West Yorkshire Combined Authority and its Transport Committees with links provided to further reports.

What impact will this proposal have?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

- 3 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?

- 4 The attached appendices set out the ongoing engagement with stakeholders about bus provision across the city.

What are the resource implications?

- 5 Any resource implications are set out in the attached appendices.

What are the legal implications?

- 6 Any legal implications are set out in the attached appendices.

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

- 7 There are no risk management concerns associated with the scrutiny process.

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

Inclusive Growth Health and Wellbeing Climate Emergency

- 8 The Scrutiny Board's engagement with this matter is reflective of its broader commitment to principles set out in the [Best City Ambition](#).

Appendices

Appendix 1: Update report from the Director (Transport and Property Services) of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority.

Appendix 2: Summary of bus infrastructure investment identified within City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement

Appendix 3: [WYCA Bus Service Improvement Plan Executive Summary \(2021\)](#)

Background papers

- 9 [Advancing Bus Provision Inquiry Report \(2017\)](#)