

COUNCIL MEETING – 15TH JANUARY 2020

NOTICE OF:	Reference No:	Date Received:	Date Forwarded:
White Paper Amendment	A2 to WP2	14/1/20	14/1/20

Submitted by:	Councillor Neil Buckley
Relevant Board/Regulatory Panel:	Executive Board
Executive Member/Chair:	Executive Member (Climate Change, Transport & Sustainable Development)
Relevant Director	Director of City Development

Delete all after “bus operators in West Yorkshire” in the first line, and insert the following:

“and is concerned about the substantial amount of public investment in buses which may now be at risk if and when First is sold.

Council does not believe that public ownership of buses provides a solution in itself to Leeds’ transport problems. Questions of service efficiency, significant traffic congestion, and carbon emissions would not be solved magically by having the Combined Authority run buses in the city. There could also be exposure to pension liabilities with such an approach, and the only way of raising capital would be via the taxpayer. Council is however open to opportunities for there to be greater public sector influence over the running of the buses in Leeds and the wider region.

Council also believes that appropriate funding should be made available to bring back into operation disused rail infrastructure, such as unused track, and the re-opening of many of the former local railway stations closed many years ago, such as the one in Wortley, the two in Armley, and others in the North of the City.

It is Council’s view that only with a comprehensive transport strategy, encompassing a mass transit solution and expanded local rail services, can Leeds (or for that matter, West Yorkshire) achieve a 21st Century public transport system that delivers for its citizens, helps to reduce congestion and is consistent with the aims of the Climate Emergency.

Council also notes that Prime Minister Boris Johnson has stated that he will transform transport in the North. Bearing this in mind Council, therefore, calls on the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister asking for the Government to support these aspirations, both in actions and funding.”

Motion would read as follows:

“Council notes the current uncertain situation with regard to First Bus and other bus operators in West Yorkshire, and is concerned about the substantial amount of public investment in buses which may now be at risk if and when First is sold.

Council does not believe that public ownership of buses provides a solution in itself to Leeds’ transport problems. Questions of service efficiency, significant traffic congestion, and carbon emissions would not be solved magically by having the Combined Authority run buses in the city. There could also be exposure to pension liabilities with such an approach, and the only way of raising capital would be via the taxpayer. Council is however open to opportunities for there to be greater public sector influence over the running of the buses in Leeds and the wider region.

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Councillor Neil Buckley

Deadlines for submission

White Papers	- 10.00 am on the day before the issue of the Summons
Questions	- 10.00 am on Monday before the meeting
Amendments (including references back)	- 10.00 am on the day before the meeting

(All submissions should be made to Governance Services for receipt to be recorded and distribution made)
