

COUNCIL MEETING – 16th November 2022

NOTICE OF:	Reference No:	Date Received:	Date Forwarded:
White Paper Amendment	A3 TO WP1	15/11/22	15/11/22

Submitted by:	Councillor James Lewis
Relevant Board/Regulatory Panel:	Executive Board
Executive Member/Chair:	Leader of Council
Relevant Director	Director of City Development

Remove all after “This Council” and replace with:

“.....is concerned that, despite action by the West Yorkshire Mayor to push Government to extend the Bus Recovery Grant, private bus operators First and Arriva have still proceeded to implement cuts to some bus services and failed to improve employment conditions for their staff to address their driver recruitment and retention issues.

Council believes this situation where private operators in receipt of Government subsidy can choose to shrink the bus network, including routes crucial for our communities, is unacceptable and confirms that the current deregulated, privatised bus model introduced by the Conservatives has been a resounding failure. Council is concerned by the damage this model has inflicted over many years on the everyday lives of residents across Leeds who rely on buses to access jobs, education, family, crucial services, shops and entertainment.

Council further believes questions about the delivery of the Bus Recovery Grant directly to private operators by the Government need to be independently investigated by an agency such as the National Audit Office.

Council welcomes action taken by this council and the West Yorkshire Mayor to improve buses for passengers in Leeds, including more bus lanes and Park and Ride sites, as well as cheaper tickets through the £2 Mayors Fares scheme.

Council calls for legislation that currently prevents the creation of new municipal publicly owned bus companies to be overturned. Council reiterates again its support for the West Yorkshire Mayor’s pledge to bring in franchising of the bus network but notes the Government’s timetable blocks this until at least 2024. Council also supports the West Yorkshire Mayor’s calls for Government to provide sustainable, long-term funding for buses to enable the bus network to grow. In the meantime Council will continue to support the West Yorkshire Mayor in holding First and Arriva to account and supports the West Yorkshire Mayor’s calls for the Government to extend the Bus Recovery Grant beyond its current end date of March to prevent any further cuts to services.”

James Lewis

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 - 10.00 am on the day before the meeting
(including references back)

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