

**Report to:** Transport Committee

**Date:** 15 March 2019

**Subject:** **Leeds City Region Transport Update**

**Director:** Dave Pearson, Director, Transport Services

**Author(s):** Various

Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 the Transport Committee with an update on current issues.

**2. Information**

**Consultations**

**Light Rail (and other forms of rapid transit systems): Call for evidence by the DfT**

2.1 The DfT have issued a “Call for Evidence” to act as a stimulus for new ideas, and as a means to gather input from a wide range of stakeholders, including those overseas, on the scale of the opportunity for light rail and similar rapid transit solutions. This will form an important part of the Government’s work on the Future of Mobility Grand Challenge, established in the Industrial Strategy, and on “smart places”; work which is considering the use, value and deployment of emerging transport technologies and services.

2.2 The Call for Evidence highlights that there are currently eight light rail systems in operation in England and national statistics highlight these forms of transport are popular, with over 267 million passengers journeys made in

2017/18. Indeed, three percent of transport journeys in England are made on a light rail system. The Government has also made significant investments in recent years to extend existing light rail systems, including in Nottingham, Manchester and the West Midlands.

- 2.3 The documentation is available through the weblink below<sup>1</sup> and the principles of the draft response will be brought to the May Transport Committee meeting, ahead of the response being submitted by the 19 May 2019 deadline.

### **Funding issues**

#### **Clean Bus Technology Fund**

- 2.4 Late in 2018, the Combined Authority and Leeds City Council were successful in two bids totalling £4.2m from the DEFRA Clean Bus Technology Fund. The scheme will see the retrofit of 300 mid-life buses across West Yorkshire – approximately 30% of the West Yorkshire bus fleet to the latest Euro VI emission standard. Work is in progress and buses are currently being upgraded.
- 2.5 On 6 February, DEFRA invited the Combined Authority and other authorities who were successfully awarded funding under the Clean Bus Technology Fund project to apply for up to £3m of further funding to enable the retrofit of more buses to help bring local NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations within statutory limits. An application was submitted for £2.9m to equip a further 179 vehicles which must be spent by end September 2019.

### **Bus issues**

#### **Bus Service Changes In Kirklees**

- 2.6 The Combined Authority has recently reviewed the supported bus network in Kirklees in line with Transport Committee guidelines. This resulted in minor changes to Combined Authority funded services from the weekend of 23/ 24 February enabling a saving to the Combined Authority in line with budget. The service changes were largely in North Kirklees and the Holme Valley areas.
- 2.7 In parallel Arriva has reviewed its North Kirklees commercial network and made changes to services from 23 February. Overall the company are slightly increasing bus resources and are focussing on routes with greater commercial potential. Whilst these changes will increase the frequency of some services, they also reduce and withdraw others as well as breaking some current links. Arriva undertook an engagement exercise to inform customers of the proposals. A separate report on this agenda considers a petition submitted to the District Consultation Sub Committee in this regard.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/light-rail-and-other-rapid-transit-solutions-in-cities-and-towns-call-for-evidence>

## **Rail Issues**

- 2.8 New rail stations update – Design work on White Rose and Thorpe Park rail stations are progressing following consultation last year. It is envisaged that Outline Business Cases for both stations will be completed by spring 2019.

To support the expected growth at Leeds Bradford Airport (LBA) and to support job creation in the wider north-west Leeds, the Combined Authority is working with partners at Leeds City Council, Leeds Bradford Airport and key stakeholders to bring forward a series of proposals to improve connectivity to LBA. There will be joint consultation on the LBA parkway station and the LBA Link Road from 18 February to 12 April 2019. Public drop-in sessions will be held at local areas and information cards will be distributed at wider areas including Leeds city centre, Bradford, Harrogate and York. Further details of the consultation and information about future consultation / engagement activities are available through [www.yourvoice.westyorks-ca.gov.uk](http://www.yourvoice.westyorks-ca.gov.uk).

## **Strategic transport issues**

### **Skills issues in the transport sector**

- 2.9 The pipeline of developments in transport represent a significant opportunity and challenge for the Leeds City Region in terms of skills and talent, particularly to deliver major transport infrastructure schemes:
- HS2 will create 25,000 jobs in the UK, peaking around 2025 with a uniquely high proportion of high level skills;
  - Growth Deal and other public sector investments, particularly the West Yorkshire Transport Fund, will create significant numbers of employment opportunities but there are already skills shortages in the construction sector and these schemes will face competition from other sectors and schemes;
  - Even though industry faces skill shortages relatively few women enter these industries and occupations. Around 90 per cent of civil engineers and 80 per cent of construction project managers in Yorkshire and the Humber are male.
- 2.10 The Combined Authority, in partnership with Local Authorities, delivers a range of skills initiatives which will contribute to addressing the skills shortages in the transport sector:
- The Enterprise in Education programme is currently engaged with 175 (86%) secondary schools and colleges to improve employer linkages, careers information and inspiration, and to bring about better outcomes for young people. Through this programme, over 134,000 employer encounters have been delivered including 37,771 employer encounters for disadvantaged young people. The Combined Authority is working with companies including Engie, Arriva, BAM Nuttall and Northern Rail to promote the range of opportunities within the Rail and Infrastructure sector. On 4 March, we supported Northern (Arriva Rail North) to welcome young women from across the Leeds City Region

to spend a day in the rail industry to learn first-hand the exciting careers opportunities available in the industry.

- Through careers campaigns, targeting young people and key influencers as well as career changers, over 250,000 people will be supported to make better informed career choices in 2019/20. The #futuregoals campaign targets 11 - 19 year olds and their influencers, to inspire and inform career choices, with a focus on key skills gap areas including the construction of major infrastructure schemes.



- The £9m Employment Hub – funded through European Social Fund and delivered in partnership with Local Authorities – will support over 6,000 young people to access apprenticeships and employment
- Through the devolved Apprenticeship Grant for Employers, almost 3,000 businesses have been supported to recruit apprentices for the first time.
- The [re]boot programme, funded through European Social Fund, will support graduates and career changers to upskill and re-train to access career opportunities in the sectors that are most important to our economy
- Through Delivery Agreements with the seven Further Education Colleges in West Yorkshire, the LEP and Combined Authority are challenging colleges to ensure that provision better meets businesses' current and future skills needs
- £79 million has been invested in improving college facilities in Leeds City Region to ensure our key sectors and sources of growth are supported by high quality skills and education facilities.

### **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 staffing implications directly arising from this report.

**6. External Consultees**

6.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

**7. Recommendations**

7.1 That the updates provided in this report are noted.

**8. Background Documents**

None.

**9. Appendices**

None.