
Report to: Leeds District Consultation Sub Committee

Date: 16 March 2020

Subject: **Information Report**

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1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To update the sub-committee on matters of information relating to the Leeds District.

2. Information

Consultation and Engagement

- 2.1 Details of consultation and engagement activity is available via the Combined Authority's digital engagement Hub, Your Voice: www.yourvoice.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/
- 2.2 The following engagement activities are either recently closed or current.

Leeds Bus Station Improvements: Public engagement took place during October 2019 and the Outline Business Case for the scheme was approved by the Combined Authority in January 2020. The bus station improvements are part of the wider Transforming your City Centre improvements which focuses on the following four main areas:

- The Corn Exchange
- Meadow Lane
- Lower Briggate
- Leeds Bus Station & York Street

Further information is available at www.yourvoice.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/LeedsBusStation.

Leeds Travel Centre Refurbishment: A survey was carried out from 21 January to 4 February 2020 on the proposed improvements at Leeds Bus Station Travel Centre. Further information is available at: www.yourvoice.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/LeedsTravelSurvey

Leeds Rail Station – Sustainable Travel Gateway - This engagement took place from 31 January to 23 February. Further information is available at: www.yourvoice.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/LCS

Rothwell and Robin Hood walking and cycling improvement scheme: This engagement took place from 7 February to 9 March. Further information is available at: www.yourvoice.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/RRH

Cottingley bus stops improvements This engagement will be open from 24 February – 23 March. We are asking people what they think about plans to upgrade bus stops and shelters in Cottingley. Further information is available at: www.yourvoice.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/cottingleybus

Connecting Leeds

- 2.3 Major works are taking place on Headrow, Infirmary Street and Park Row in Leeds city centre to speed up bus services and make them more reliable and punctual. Part of the Leeds City Council's £270 million Connecting Leeds programme, the scheme will result in Infirmary Street being two-way for buses and cycles with new bus stops in lay-bys along both sides. The central bus stop island will be removed and a new pedestrian crossing installed.
- 2.4 Park Row will become one-way, southbound, with new stretches of bus lane to reduce delays, and stops relocated together at its southern end. As well as improving bus journeys, this scheme will mean wider pavements Park Row and Infirmary Street and more attractive public space with new trees. Making Infirmary Street a two-way route will help prepare for future proposals to remove through-traffic from City Square making it an extended public space for pedestrians and cyclists
- 2.5 Work started on Infirmary Street on February 23 and some services and stops are affected as a result. Full information on these changes can be found at: www.wymetro.com/plan-a-journey/travel-news/bus-travel-alerts
- 2.6 Construction work has commenced to create a 1,200 space Park & Ride facility at Stourton. The new service will commence operation in Spring/Summer 2021 using electric double deck buses. An extension of the Elland Road Park & Ride car park is in progress and an extension at Temple Green will commence later in 2020.
- 2.7 The Network Navigation project will roll out a colour coded approach to the high frequency bus network in Leeds from autumn 2020. Three trial battery powered bus stop real time flag signs have been installed at East Parade, Wellington Street and Meadow Lane ahead of a full roll out later in 2020.
- 2.8 Work will commence shortly on the Connecting Communities element of the programme providing improvements in Bramley, Compton Road and Lincoln Green.

Better Deal for Bus Users

- 2.9 On 6 February 2020 the Department for Transport (DfT) announced a competitive £220m package of improvements for bus. [A Better Deal for Bus Users](#) includes the following packages of investment:

- **Super Bus Funding** – to increase bus patronage in a defined urban area through a package of measures including bus priority, reducing bus fares and increasing service frequencies.
- **All-Electric Bus Towns Funding** – the aim of the fund is to tackle poor air quality, DfT is seeking bids from towns that have an air quality problem to convert 100% of buses operating in that area to electric. Up to £50m is available to support one town in England.
- **Rural Mobility Funding** – to trial on-demand services in rural and suburban areas. As the Combined Authority is eligible for Transforming Cities Fund, it is not eligible for this funding.
- **Supported Bus Services Funding** – the Combined Authority is eligible for £1.086m of revenue funding to support bus services. The Government expects this funding to be used to improve the provision of local bus services in one or more of the following ways:
 - a) to improve current local bus services - for instance increasing evening or weekend frequencies, or supporting additional seasonal services in tourist areas;
 - b) to restore lost bus routes where most needed to ensure people have access to public transport services; and
 - c) to support new bus services, or extensions to current services, to access new housing, employment opportunities, healthcare facilities etc.

An Expression of Interest is required for submission to the Department for Transport in March 2020 to receive payment in April 2020. A verbal update on the Combined Authority's expression of interest will be provided at the meeting.

Leeds Rail Station

- 2.10 Following completion of the works to the station concourse, work continues creating a new platform zero and simplifying the track layout. The improvements are due to be completed early next year and will allow more train services at the station, increasing capacity and improving reliability.

Garforth Rail Station Car Park

- 2.11 Work to create an extra 83 car parking spaces at Garforth rail station was completed in December, bringing the total to 333 spaces, including a total of 15 blue badge bays.
- 2.12 Enhanced cycle storage and a repair station, CCTV, low-energy lighting, enhanced drainage infrastructure to prevent pollution from fuel and oil run-off and electrical ducting for potential future electric vehicle charging points were also part of the scheme.

Department for Transport Access for All Mid-Tier Programme

- 2.13 The Combined Authority together with Northern submitted applications to the Department for Transport Access for All Mid-Tier Programme last year. The £20 million national funding programme supports accessibility improvements at rail stations requiring between £250,000 and £1 million of Government support. Improvements could include a package of small-scale access

improvements at Burley-in-Wharfedale station. The Government announcement of successful applications is expected in Spring 2020.

Rail Timetable Change

- 2.14 The National Rail Timetable is changed in May and December each year. The December timetable operates until Saturday 16 May 2020. The May 2020 rail timetable change will see less significant service-pattern changes than in some recent years; further details will be available at www.wymetro.com

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That the information report be noted.

4. Background Documents

- 4.1 None.