
Report to: Calderdale District Consultation Sub Committee

Date: 17 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 Calderdale 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 have recently closed:
- Halifax Bus Station: Public feedback was sought regarding plans to redevelop Halifax bus station from 13 January to 12 February. Further information is available at: www.yourvoice.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/hbs
 - Calderdale Corridor Improvement Programmes: Calderdale Council and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority are developing a series of improvements to the road network along the A58 / A672 from Junction 22 of the M62 to King Cross in Halifax and the A646 / A6033 from Todmorden to Skircoat Moor. The second phase of engagement took place from 2 January to 14 February. Further information is available at: www.yourvoice.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/ccip2
- Halifax Bus Station
- 2.3 The Outline Business Case for this project was approved by the Combined Authority in October 2019. Following public engagement during January and February 2020, feedback is now being collated and used to inform the planning application. Submission of a Full Planning Application will take place in spring 2020.

- 2.4 Funding is being sought to develop and deliver the Halifax bus station project as part of the West Yorkshire Transforming Cities Fund (TCF), which is a competitive bid to the Department for Transport (DfT). A funding decision is expected from the DfT in March 2020.

Bus Service Changes

- 2.5 Supported bus services have been reviewed in Calderdale, with changes being introduced from May 2020. Tenders for these services are currently being evaluated, and a verbal update will be given at the meeting.
- 2.6 In December 2019, First withdrew its Rochdale, Todmorden, Burnley service reducing the frequency of services between Todmorden, Portsmouth and Burnley to hourly. Following concerns expressed by local residents, First restored some peak journeys. A public meeting was held on 17 February attended by First and the Combined Authority and filmed by BBC Panorama. Consideration is underway of options to further restore frequency of services.

Weather Conditions and Disruption to Services

- 2.7 Public transport services in the district were affected by recent storms, with some delays and cancellations. An update will be provided at the meeting.

Better Deal for Bus Users

- 2.8 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.
- 2.9 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.

Rail Timetable Change

2.10 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.