
Report to: Wakefield District Consultation Sub Committee

Date: 19 March 2020

Subject: **Information Report**

Director(s): Dave Pearson, Director of Transport Services

Author(s): Various

1. Purpose of this report

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

2. Information

Better Deal for Bus Users

- 2.1 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.

2.2 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.

New 198 Bus Service

2.3 Wakefield Council and the Combined Authority are co-funding a new bus service from Newstead (Brookland Crescent) to Barnsley via South Hiendley. This service will be introduced on 27 April 2020 and provide a broadly hourly Monday- Saturday daytime service. The service will be named 198 and operated by Globe Travel. This service will be introduced on a 'use it or lose it' basis, and passenger numbers will be assessed after the first year of operation to determine future support. Full timetable information will be available from www.wymetro.com.

Department for Transport Access for All Mid-Tier Programme

2.4 The Combined Authority has welcomed the [announcement](#) by the Department for Transport that our joint application with Northern to the Access for All Mid-Tier Programme has been successful. The £20 million national funding programme supports accessibility improvements at rail stations requiring between £250,000 and £1 million of Government support. Subject to a feasible design being possible Pontefract Monkhill rail station will receive an accessible step free route into the station, as well as to and between every platform including the installation of lifts. The government funding is being supported by match funding from the Combined Authority and Wakefield Council. The Combined Authority will work with our partners to progress the scheme and deliver the station improvements within the funding period which ends March 2024.

Rail Timetable Change

2.5 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 largely see less significant service-pattern changes than in some recent years.

2.6 However, In the May 2020 timetable change, the current Transpennine Express Manchester Piccadilly – Huddersfield service will be extended to call at Wakefield Kirkgate. This provides the population of Wakefield with a new hourly, all day, faster journey to Manchester. The timings of this train arriving/departing Wakefield Kirkgate has been designed to connect well with

other train services and buses for West Yorkshire. 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.