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**Report to:** Leeds District Consultation Sub Committee

**Date:** 12 October 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.

1.2 Updates on regional and national issues are covered in the papers for Transport Committee, the latest set are available on the following link;

<https://westyorkshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=138&MId=1021>

**2. Information**

Connecting Leeds

2.1 Major works having been taking place on Headrow, Infirmary Street and Park Row in Leeds city centre throughout the summer 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.

2.2 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

2.3 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](http://www.wymetro.com/plan-a-journey/travel-news/bus-travel-alerts)

- 2.4 The first phase of the Headrow scheme opened on 5 October with buses returning to two way operation.
- 2.5 Construction work has commenced to create a 1,200 space Park & Ride facility at Stourton. The new service will be commence operation in Spring/ Summer 2021 using electric double deck buses. An extension of the Elland Road Park & Ride car park is now complete and an extension at Temple Green will commence in 2021.
- 2.6 The Network Navigation project will roll out a colour coded approach to the high frequency “core” bus network in Leeds from autumn 2020. The scheme incorporates suggestions made at previous meetings of this Committee. A copy of the finalised route network plan is included as an appendix to this report. New battery powered real time information screens will also be installed at busier stops on the core network where there is no bus shelter.
- 2.7 Works to improve passenger and environmental facilities at Leeds Bus Station will commence in Spring 2021. Connecting Leeds funded works to improve facilities for public transport users, cyclists and pedestrians will proceed over the coming nine months in the following locations
- Compton Road, Harehills
  - Lincoln Green/Mabgate
  - Middleton Park
  - Cottingley Estate
  - Rothwell & Robin Hood
  - Pudsey Area
  - Bramley Bus Station

#### Leeds Rail Station

- 2.8 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.
- 2.9 As reported to the previous meeting, consultation has now been completed on a revised arrangement for the area outside the station in New Station Street and a planning application is under consideration.

#### Bus Services

- 2.10 The network of bus services which link the Airport with Leeds and Bradford is jointly funded by the Combined Authority and the Airport company. Following a procurement process, Transdev has been engaged to operate the services which are now branded “Flyer”. Route changes to the Bradford services will enable a faster journey time between the City and the Airport and new links to Apperley Bridge rail station.
- 2.11 First West Yorkshire is planning to operate service 5 in Leeds (Halton Moor/ City Centre loop) with nine electric single deck buses from October 2020. Electric double deck buses will operate Stourton Park & Ride in Leeds from late 2021. Both are part-funded through the DfT Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) grant scheme.

- 2.12 To date two thirds (189 of 284) of the new ultra-low emission have been provided by First Leeds as part of its commitment to the Leeds Public Transport Improvement Programme. Given the current uncertain financial position in the bus sector, a timescale for the remaining 90 is still to be finalised. Across West Yorkshire, the Combined Authority has delivered an £8 million Clean Bus Technology programme to equip 476 buses with emission control equipment to enable them to meet clean air zone standards. As at June 2020, 75% of the Leeds bus fleet met this standard (compared with 59% of the West Yorkshire fleet).

#### Active Travel - Emergency Active Travel Fund

- 2.13 On the 5th June, the Combined Authority submitted an application for tranche one of the Department for Transport's (DfT) Emergency Active Travel funding, on behalf of the Combined Authority and West Yorkshire partner councils. The programme of schemes was established to provide swift and meaningful plans to provide more safe space for cyclists and pedestrians. A list of the highways infrastructure and behaviour change schemes that this funding is supporting is published [here](#). Schemes being delivered in Leeds are:
- Cycle facilities protected from volumes of traffic by light or hard segregation including:
    - new mandatory cycle lanes with light segregation on Roseville Road. Similar measures on Neville Street and Crown Point Road will be delivered through the Transforming Cities Fund programme
    - Widening and segregating through light segregation of existing cycle lanes on the A660. A similar scheme is being delivered on the A65 through Leeds' Local Transport Plan programme
  - Footway widening and increasing pedestrian space at locations within Leeds city centre and in all district centres
  - Improvements to create a traffic free cycle route around Otley town centre
  - Enabling more walking and cycling to schools by creating School Streets measures (timed restrictions to general traffic on streets in proximity to schools) at schools across the city, alongside measures to support pupils to get to school by bike
  - Restricting access for general motor traffic to create pedestrian and cycle friendly zones Restrictions at certain times of day or all day on residential streets as part of the creation of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods in Beeston and Hyde Park. Similar measures are planned on Haddon Rd, Kirkstall, and Mexborough Estate, Chapeltown through Leeds' Local Transport Plan programme
  - Installation of 250 cycle stands across the city, as well as temporary cycle parking provision at Kirkgate Market, whilst offering free bike maintenance training to the public.
- 2.14 An application for £10.053 million of tranche two funding was submitted on the 7th August, in line with the indicative allocations published by DfT. This set out a programme of temporary and permanent infrastructure delivery across West Yorkshire, supported by accompanying behaviour change activities to enable more people to make use of the new infrastructure, and monitoring and evaluation. The outcome is expected to be announced at the end of August.

- 2.15 The invitation letter from the Department for Transport states that authorities must demonstrate that funds can be spent or fully committed in this financial year (i.e. by the end of March 2021), meaning that these schemes must be delivered at pace.
- 2.16 The West Yorkshire application sought the total £10.053 million indicatively allocated by DfT, with a programme of schemes within the following themes:
- Combined Low Traffic Neighbourhood and Cycle Corridor Schemes (£3,14 million)
  - Cycle Parking/Storage (£0.71 million)
  - E-Scooter trial in Leeds (£0.14 million)
  - Cycle Route Improvements - including segregated cycle provision, junction improvements and other links (£3.63 million)
  - School Streets Measures (£0.2 million)
  - Streets For People Town Centre schemes (£0.14 million)
  - Walking Accessibility Improvements (£1.1 million)
  - Monitoring and Evaluation (£0.14 million)
  - Behaviour Change (£0.89 million)
- 2.17 The full details of the programme submitted will be published once an announcement has been made by government.
- 2.18 A reserve list of schemes was identified in the application form, in the event that more funding is made available by DfT. If less funding is allocated to the region than applied for, further prioritisation of the programme will have to be undertaken.
- 2.19 The programme was developed in partnership with partner councils, and Transport Committee members provided comments on the application form and proposed programme alongside Leaders and Portfolio Holders. The proposed programme was shared with members of the West Yorkshire Bus Alliance and the CityConnect Advisory Group for comment before submission.
- 2.20 Comments received through online interactive mapping platforms were also used by partners to identify schemes within the programme, including the Your Voice interactive map covering Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield, and equivalent online engagement tools managed by Bradford Council and Leeds City Council. To date there have been over 1,600 comments made on the Your Voice map, from almost 400 contributors since launch in June.
- 2.21 As with tranche one, it is proposed to manage delivery of the tranche two programme through the existing CityConnect programme governance structure.

### **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 That the information report be noted.

### **4. Background Documents**

- 4.1 None.

### **5. Appendices**

- 5.1 Appendix 1 – Leeds Core Network Map.