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

**Date:** 21 October 2020

**Subject:** **Information Report**

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

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## **1. Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 To update the sub committee on matters of information relating to the Kirklees 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**

### Huddersfield Better Connected Stations

- 2.1 Work has started on a £1.88 million scheme to make it easier for people to cross Huddersfield town centre by foot, or by bike, which will provide a further boost for West Yorkshire's growing walking and cycling network. The Huddersfield Better Connected Stations project, being delivered by Kirklees Council through the West Yorkshire Combined Authority's CityConnect programme, will focus on improving the route between Huddersfield Bus Station and Rail Station, for people to travel by foot, as well as better access around bus stops on Westgate.

### Bus Services

- 2.2 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, 38% of the Kirklees bus fleet met this standard (compared with 59% of the West Yorkshire fleet).

- 2.3 Works have been completed on a refurbishment of the toilets at Dewsbury Bus Station.

#### Trans Pennine Route Upgrade Rail Station Improvements

- 2.4 The Trans-Pennine Route Upgrade (TRU) was first announced in 2011. It is a programme of investment to deliver a high performing, reliable railway for passengers, with more seats, more trains and faster journeys between Manchester and York via Huddersfield and Leeds. On 23 July 2020, the Transport Secretary announced a range of investments including the release of £589m to begin design work on the first section of the Trans-Pennine railway line and other investment in the North of England. The government has not confirmed the scope of TRU and what station improvements will be included; this is not expected until early 2021.

#### Active Travel - Emergency Active Travel Fund

- 2.5 On 5 June 2020, 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
- 2.6 An application for £10.053 million of tranche two funding was submitted on 7 August 2020, 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. The full details of the programme submitted will be published once an announcement has been made by government.
- 2.7 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.
- 2.8 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.
- 2.9 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.