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

**Date:** 15 March 2021

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

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

**Author(s):** Various

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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;  
  
[Transport Committee Meeting 12 March 2021](#)
- 1.3 A list of current projects in Leeds District where there is current activity is provided at Appendix 1.

## **2. Information**

### **Connecting Leeds**

#### Vicar Lane

- 2.1 On 21 February, Vicar Lane opened in both directions to buses. The reopening marked the first time buses have travelled northbound on Vicar Lane since the road was closed to one way traffic in 1964. Northbound buses that normally travel up New Briggate will divert to Vicar Lane, which will be open to buses and taxis only during peak periods. The council proposes to make the southbound lane open to buses and taxis only during the day-time south of Harrison Street. Bus stops on New Briggate will no longer be served and services will permanently move to Vicar Lane. Details of all the services affected are available on the WY Metro website.

## Connecting Leeds Transport Strategy

- 2.2 The Connecting Leeds Transport Strategy sets out three objectives of tackling climate change, delivering inclusive growth and improving health and wellbeing. The draft strategy is available to view online, with opportunities to provide feedback: [Share Your Views On Leeds Transport Strategy – Commonplace](#)

## Stourton Park and Ride

- 2.3 Works are progressing in all zones within the main site, with bulk earthworks and drainage now complete, the vast amount of ducting nearing completion and block paving ongoing across the site. Progress has also been made by EVO Energy on the steel solar canopies, roofing and installation of solar PV units. Works to the terminus building continue and the service corridor has been completed which will connect the terminus building to the outside world. The highway elements of the scheme are also progressing well with recent progress including carriageway widening on the A61, the new contraflow section under the M621 overbridge, carriageway widening by the motorway off slip and further widening by the A329/A61 merge.

## Temple Green Park and Ride

- 2.4 Enabling works have started on the Temple Green park and ride site to prepare for the expansion from 1,000 parking capacity to 1,391 spaces. The expansion will include an additional 6 electric vehicle charging spaces making 20 in total on site. Currently the park and ride facility is being used as one of Leeds Covid-19 test centres. The expansion is due to be complete in winter 2021.

## Leeds Rail Station

- 2.5 Work to create a new platform zero has now been completed; these improvements will allow more train services at the station, increasing capacity and improving reliability.
- 2.6 Leeds City Council, working closely with the Combined Authority and Network Rail, is also working on a project which will transform the Leeds station's main entrance and the surrounding area. The proposed works will significantly improve accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists. Removing heavy traffic from outside the station will allow pedestrians and cyclists to travel directly into the city centre with ease. The installation of two passenger lifts will provide further options for step-free access from Bishopgate to the station entrance, instead of having to use the rear and side entrance which are the only current level-access options. It is envisaged that the scheme will be completed by the end of March 2023.

## Bus Services

- 2.7 In line with government guidance, bus service levels have been constantly adapted throughout this pandemic.
- 2.8 Services are currently temporarily reduced, however bus operators started to reinstate service levels from 8<sup>th</sup> March. This initially focused on bringing Monday-Friday timetables back to normal levels so that all school journeys can be made. Some weekend services will remain reduced.
- 2.9 There will then be a further ramp up of services from 12 April when non-essential retail opens. This should then bring service levels back to normal.
- 2.10 It is recognised that the impact of COVID will have a longer term effect on patronage levels and therefore there is a risk to the viability of some services when COVID government funding is reduced/withdrawn. The Combined Authority is liaising with the Department for Transport to understand what funding will be available to help support the recovery of the bus network going forward.

## Active Travel - Emergency Active Travel Fund

- 2.11 West Yorkshire Combined Authority and our Partner Councils are working to deliver a wide ranging programme of proposals to create more space for cycling and walking, funded through the Department for Transport's Active Travel Fund.
- 2.12 The Combined Authority received notification in November 2020 that it had been awarded the full amount requested for Active Travel Fund – Tranche 2 schemes from DfT. Our Tranche 2 proposals 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.
- 2.13 A list of the proposed schemes is available on the Combined authority website: [emergency-active-travel-fund-programmes.pdf \(westyorks-ca.gov.uk\)](#)
- 2.14 A consultation plan has been developed in partnership with the districts and has been published on the Combined Authority website [active-travel-tranche-2-west-yorkshire-consultation-plan.pdf \(westyorks-ca.gov.uk\)](#)
- 2.15 Consultation activity will be undertaken over the next few months and feedback will be considered before construction work commences on a scheme. Details of the consultations will be added to [Your Voice](#).

## **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 That the information report be noted.

**4. Background Documents**

None.

**5. Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Transport schemes with 'live' activity