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

**Date:** 18 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 Wakefield 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](#)

2. A list of current projects in Wakefield District where there is current activity is provided at Appendix 1.

## **Information**

### Castleford Rail Station

- 2.1 Improvements to the station building and car park have been completed and the new facilities opened to the public in December 2020. Improvements include:
  - A modern, high quality passenger waiting facility including a ticket vending machine, seating and a disabled toilet.
  - Sheltered cycle parking.
  - Significant public realm improvements both to the area around the station and on key walking routes between the rail station, the town centre and the bus station. This includes footway treatments, landscaping and signage.
  - Changes to the car park layout to allow for easier pedestrian and non-motorised access.

- Significant refurbishment of the underpass to create a more attractive link between the rail station and residential areas in the south of Castleford town centre. This included resurfacing the footway and adding new wall cladding and lighting.

### Bus Services

- 2.2 In line with government guidance, bus service levels have been constantly adapted throughout this pandemic.
- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 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.
- 2.5 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

- 2.6 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.
- 2.7 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.
- 2.8 A list of the proposed schemes is available on the Combined authority website: [emergency-active-travel-fund-programmes.pdf \(westyorks-ca.gov.uk\)](https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/emergency-active-travel-fund-programmes.pdf)
- 2.9 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 \(westyorks-ca.gov.uk\)](https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/active-travel-tranche-2-west-yorkshire-consultation-plan.pdf)
- 2.10 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 – Current Project Activity March 2021