

July 2022

Dear operator,

Notice that the Combined Authority has prepared an Enhanced Partnership Scheme for West Yorkshire

This is a notice to confirm that the West Yorkshire Combined Authority has prepared a draft Bus Service Improvement Plan Enhanced Partnership (EP) Scheme for the region's bus system. This is now subject to a **28-day operator objection period, commencing on X date 2022 until X date 2022.**

An EP is a legal agreement between a transport authority and all qualifying local operators to work together to improve local bus services, and places new requirements on all parties concerning the delivery of these services.

This draft EP Scheme works towards delivering the Combined Authority's [Bus Service Improvement Plan](#) (BSIP) which sets out an ambitious vision and targets for buses in West Yorkshire. Specifically, the draft EP Scheme includes commitments to support the Department for Transport's key priorities of ambitious and eye-catching initiatives that reduce and simplify fares and increasing service frequencies and new/expanded routes.

All operators of "qualifying local services" have a right to provide feedback and / or formally object to this EP Scheme. A service is a "qualifying local service" for objection purposes if it is a registered local bus service which has one or more stopping places within the geographical area of the plan or scheme concerned (in this case the entirety of West Yorkshire region, as defined by the boundaries of Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield local authority areas) and it is not an excluded service.

The definition of an "excluded service" as per section 4.2 of the Department for Transport's [Enhanced Partnership guidance](#) is included as Appendix A. You have been sent this letter as the Combined Authority understands you to be an operator of a "qualifying local service".

Should a certain level of operators' object to the draft EP Scheme it will not be able to proceed to public consultation or be made legally binding. This level is reached when:

- The combined registered distance of all the qualifying local services operated by objectors in the relevant EP area is at least 25% of the total registered distance of all local bus services operated by all the bus operators in that area and there at least three are objectors; or
- At least 50% of the total number of operators of qualifying local services within the relevant plan or scheme area and the combined registered distance of qualifying local services operated by the objectors in the relevant area is at least 4%.

As per guidance provided by the Department for Transport operators are required to provide justification for any objection. To object without giving reasons would run against the requirement of the BSIP to co-operate with the EP process in order to

receive discretionary funding, including the Covid-19 Bus Service Support Grant (CBSSG).

Any objections should be sent to the Combined Authority by **X date** 2022. These can be sent to myself via email at dave.pearson@westyorks-ca.gov.uk with Subject Line: BSIP Enhanced Partnership Scheme or post marked 'Objection to Bus Enhanced Partnership Scheme for the attn Dave Pearson Dir of Transport and Property Services' to:

**Wellington House,
40-50 Wellington Street
Leeds
LS1 2DE**

The Combined Authority is required by law to publish the names of operators making any objections within 14 days of the last day of the period during which objections can be made.

The Combined Authority would like to thank all operators for their engagement and collaboration to date throughout the development of this draft EP Scheme. We look forward to continuing to work with you in this spirit to ensure the ongoing delivery of services and wider transformation of the local bus network for the benefit of West Yorkshire's travelling public.

Yours faithfully,

Dave Pearson, Director of Transport and Property Services

Appendix A

Definition of an 'excluded service', as per the Department for Transport's Enhanced Partnership guidance.

An excluded service:

- Is a service run under sections 89 to 91 of the Transport Act 1985 where the authority retains all the revenue from that service;
- is a registered local service which is an excursion or tour
- is a service operated under Section 22 of the Transport Act 1985 (a community bus service). An EP does not apply to this type of registered service - although there is nothing to prevent the operator from voluntarily complying with some or all of the EP requirements that would otherwise apply to that service; or
- The service has 10% or less of its overall distance (not just the distance within the EP plan or scheme) registered as a local bus service. (This might include interurban or other long-distance scheduled services that are not generally used for local journeys within the EP area, but may use bus stops within it).