



Levelling Up Fund – Combined Authority bid

Briefing note

February 2023

Background: Levelling Up Fund (LUF) Overview

- Levelling Up is a crucial element of government's agenda to build back better as set out in [the White Paper](#) published in February 2022
- Levelling Up looks to address regional disparities in the UK
- There are three LUF investment themes:
 1. Town centre and high street regeneration
 2. Expanding cultural and heritage assets
 3. Transport investment for projects that make a genuine difference to local areas
- There have been two rounds of LUF funding. Round 1 was announced in 2021 and has now been allocated to authorities with schemes in delivery (with four successful schemes in West Yorkshire – full list is [here](#)). A Combined Authority bid to round 1 was unsuccessful. The Round 2 Prospectus launched is published [here](#)
- Both the Combined Authority and West Yorkshire partner councils were eligible to submit bids to LUF round 2 depending on their overall bid allowance. The guidance specified that any successful bids a place had in the first round was subtracted from their bid allowance in the second round. The Combined Authority was eligible in round 2 to submit submit one transport-only bid which had to be at least 90% transport (by value).
- A large transport bid proposal was developed formed of a package of two corridor schemes supporting bus journeys and a bus journeys improvement package, safety, accessibility and environmental improvements at bus stations, bus stops and locations of delay for buses (“bus hotspots”).
- In June 2022 the Combined Authority granted authority to the Managing Director to finalise and submit the bid, in consultation with the Mayor and partner authority Leaders. A briefing note with further details on the schemes was provided following the meeting. The bid was submitted by a revised deadline of 2nd August 2022.
- The total package cost was £47.25 million. This was proposed to be funded through the bid for **£41.25 million LUF funding**, with a local contribution of £4 million gainshare and £2 million from the West Yorkshire-plus Transport Fund.
- An announcement was made on 19th January 2023 (originally expected in “autumn 2022”) including that the Combined Authority’s bid had been provisionally successful, subject to further business case approval.

Package detail

There are three schemes within the proposed West Yorkshire LUF package:

1. **West Yorkshire bus journey improvement scheme** – improving the efficiency, safety, and accessibility of our core bus network and other routes and enabling safer and more accessible end to end journeys.

This will deliver safety and accessibility improvements for passengers from the beginning to the end of their journeys to and from jobs, training and other services, by upgrading our bus stations and bus stops on key routes and reducing barriers to accessing the bus network. The package will also deliver environmental improvements to bus stations and stops such as solar panels and green roofs.

Passenger journeys by bus will be further improved by tackling key points of delay to services along these key routes, reducing journey times and improving bus service punctuality and reliability where bus operators have identified most significant problems.

More details on proposed measures included in this package are shown in Table 1 at the end of this note. Funding allocations for the measures included in this scheme are also included in the current approved CRSTS programme.

Total scheme cost: £17.4 million, made up of:

- Bus Hotspots: £3.5 million
 - Bus station improvements £6 million
 - Bus stop improvements (including accessibility improvements) £7.9 million
2. **Targeted journey improvements on 2 key corridors in the region.** These corridors support communities which are within areas of deprivation, have high levels of unemployment and poor access to private vehicles. The improvements focus on reducing bus journey times into two of our urban centres, alongside safer walking and cycling routes, congestion reduction measures to complement the improvements to bus stops and stations delivered through the bus journey improvement programme scheme.

A. A629 North in Halifax (Orange Street roundabout to Ogden)

The scheme includes:

- provision of traffic light priority for buses at key junctions on the route;
- improvements to subways and paths at Orange Street roundabout including better lighting and new CCTV;
- changes to the road layout at Wrigley Hill to make the junction safer and reduce congestion;

-
- improved pedestrian footways and new crossing at the Keighley Road and Nursey Lane junction and on Ovenden Road south of Athol Gardens;
 - a new pedestrian crossing facility on Keighley Road in the vicinity of Illingworth Sports & Social Club and Crossley Juniors AFC; and
 - Introduction of traffic calming and improvements to the highway environment to provide a quiet cycling and walking route between Ovenden and Halifax via Old Lane;
 - Provision of an alternative new off-road cycle path between Broad Tree Road and Lee Bank via Rawsons Mill (subject to feasibility and land ownership).

Consultation on the scheme was carried out in summer 2021, and the scheme gained approval to proceed through decision point 3 (outline business case) and work commence on decision point 4 (full business case) from Combined Authority in February 2022.

More information is available on the Calderdale webpage here: [A629 Orange Street roundabout to Ogden | Calderdale Next Chapter](#)

Total scheme cost : £7.93 million (including £6.82 million from LUF)

B. A639 Park Road in Pontefract

The scheme includes:

- bus priority improvement through traffic signal upgrades at the Park Lane junction;
- quiet cycle route alternative route upgrades
- improved walking and cycling environment on the A639 Park Road
- improved ped/cycle crossing at Racecourse Roundabout
- capacity improvements for all traffic to create 2 lanes in each direction from Park Road up to Racecourse roundabout

Total scheme cost: £11.1 million (including £10.3 million funding from LUF)

A funding contribution to this this scheme is also included in the current approved CRSTS programme

In addition to scheme costs shown above, an allowance has been made for programme level risk and inflation, programme management and monitoring and evaluation, based on experience from existing and previous programmes, and current levels of inflation.

Other programmes supporting bus

In addition to the two corridor schemes, and measures within the Bus Journey Improvement package delivered through LUF, we are delivering infrastructure and other supporting measures to support the ambitious vision of our Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) for better buses in West Yorkshire.

The West Yorkshire CRSTS and TCF programmes include projects in development that will deliver bus priority across West Yorkshire, through bus lanes, bus gates and other bus priority measures at junctions as part of a whole corridor approach. As set out above, some of the schemes currently included the CRSTS and TCF programmes also have funding allocations secured through LUF.

The schemes within each District included in these programmes are shown below:

Bradford

South Bradford Bus Expressway (TCF)

Wakefield Road, Bradford bus priority and cycle corridor

Kings Road sustainable transport (bus and cycle) corridor

Bradford Bus Hotspot package (*Westgate / Drewton Rd / Lumb Lane; Leeds Rd gyratory; Bolton Rd / Leeds Rd / Stone Hall Rd*)

Calderdale

Calderdale bus hotspots and priority bus lane camera enforcement

North-East Calderdale Bus Priority and Cycle corridor – phase 1

Kirklees

Dewsbury - Cleckheaton bus/cycling/walking corridor (TCF)

Dewsbury - Batley - Chidswell Bus, cycling and walking corridor (TCF)

A629 Wakefield Road Sustainable Transport scheme (TCF)

A62 – A644 bus priority corridors – Huddersfield/Cooper Bridge/Ravensthorpe/Dewsbury

Leeds

A64 Bus, Cycle and Walking Improvements (TCF)

Beckett Street, Leeds – transformational bus priority scheme

Leeds City Centre Bus Priority and Active Travel

A660 bus priority & cycle corridor incl. Lawnswood roundabout

A660 - Northern/University Gateway inclusive of the Headrow to St Marks Road

Elland Road South/Churwell Hill (from A6110 package)

Thirsk Row /King Street - Bus gate/access road

Wakefield

Wakefield City Centre Bus/Cycle/Walking Improvements (TCF)

Heath Common to Knottingley Bus Priority

Horbury – Wakefield / Ossett to Wakefield Bus Priority

South Wakefield Bus Package (including; A636 Denby Dale Road bus priority measures)

North Wakefield Bus Package (including; A642 Aberford Road corridor bus priority measures)

A639 Park Road, Pontefract – on and off highways improvements

Cross boundary schemes (Leeds/Wakefield) and West Yorkshire wide

A61 Bus, Cycle and Walking Improvements (TCF)

A639 Bus, Cycle and Walking Improvements (TCF)

West Yorkshire wide

Public Transport Network Navigation

Mobility hubs

Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) services

Integrated ticketing and information

Safety Accessibility and Environment Programme - Bus station and stop renewals and improvements

Safety Accessibility and Environment Programme – bus service highways improvements/bus hotspots package

Community Transport Vehicle replacement

Zero emission bus programme (combined funding sources)

In addition to infrastructure improvements supporting bus services and our BSIP, our £69 million Bus Service Improvement Plan revenue funding enables us to deliver initiatives to support buses region-wide including:

- **Fares subsidy (The Mayor's Fares), £36.9 million** – capping single tickets at £2 and day tickets at £4.50 for all passengers, no matter what bus service they are travelling
- **New and enhanced bus services, £30.9 million** – to protect, enhance and add new services to the bus network to provide more options for travel and better connect communities.
- **Supporting bus priority and safety. £2.05 million** – improvements to coordination of bus, urban traffic and passenger information, and an Enhanced Safer Travel Partnership with the WY police.

Supporting technology investments via CRSTS capital funding will also support further improvements to ticketing and information to make bus travel easier for all bus users.

Stakeholder Support

- All West Yorkshire MPs were approached for their support for the West Yorkshire LUF bid. Formal support was received from Naz Shah and Holly Lynch MPs via signed proforma.
- Informal support was received from Alex Sobel, Hilary Benn, Rachel Reeves, Richard Burgon, and Kim Leadbeater MPs
- Support was also received from some of the region's bus operators that are part of the Bus Alliance.

Value for Money

The estimated benefit cost ratio of the bid as a whole (combining the three schemes) is 1.76:1, representing Medium value for money according to government transport analysis guidance.(TAG)

Table 1: Breakdown of Bus Journey Improvement Scheme:

Measures may vary from the lists below depending on the outcome of further development work on each element.

Bus hotspots	<p>Hotspot locations identified by bus operators are detailed below and subject to schemes being developed to address issues and consultation and engagement being undertaken.</p> <p>Bradford</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thornton Road / A6177• Bolton Road / Leeds Road / Stone Hall Road• Little Horton Road / Horton Park Road• Leeds Road / Laisterdyke <p>Leeds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thirsk Row/King Street• Garforth Main Street• Selby Road, Garforth• Nippet Lane• Horsforth Roundabout (A65/A6120 roundabout)• Old Ball Roundabout (Station Road/Brownberrie Lane junction), Horsforth• Rawdon Cross Roads (A65/B6125 junction)• High Royd Signals <p>Wakefield</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A645 North Baileygate gyratory• A636 Denby Dale Road bus lanes (and signal priority) –• Hemsworth Town centre (bus station approach and Market Street) <p>Note: Improvement schemes to deliver bus priority and address delay to buses in Calderdale and Kirklees are being delivered through the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) programme, alongside potential bus hotspots, with these programmes expected to be continued in further CRSTS funding periods or other future programmes.</p>
--------------	---

<p>Bus stop improvements</p>	<p>Providing new and replacement bus shelters and real time information screens at bus stops on the Core Bus Network and other routes that serve communities experiencing poor access to opportunities and deprivation. These will be installed alongside other accessibility improvements and measures to reduce energy use and provide environmental benefits, such as solar panels and green roofs where possible.</p> <p>The numbers of improvements that can be delivered through this programme will be confirmed as part of development of a detailed programme but could provide up to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 200 new bus shelters • 600 new bus stop poles (to meet minimum standards) • 200 new Real Time Information (RTI) in shelters • 100 new RTI on poles • 200 stop accessibility improvements
<p>Bus station improvements</p>	<p>Safety, Accessibility and Environmental works expected at the following bus stations:</p> <p>Bradford; Leeds; Ossett; Batley; Cleckheaton; Brighouse; Pudsey; Keighley; Todmorden; South Elmsall; Hemsworth; Castleford; Pontefract; Ilkley</p> <p>Bringing bus stations up to and beyond current accessibility standards through creation of Changing Places and Quiet Room facilities, providing facilities for customers and wider community, as well as other safety accessibility improvements like brush barriers, help points, tactile signage and pedestrian crossings.</p> <p>Essential maintenance also included to ensure facilities remain useable and providing suitable customer experience incl. roof repairs, carriageway resurfacing ,additional CCTV coverage, seating, glazing, automatic doors and drainage works</p> <p>Focus on ensuring facilities support Mayoral priority for women and girls' safety e.g. ensuring facilities are well lit, welcoming, secure spaces, and promoting a more inclusive bus system available to all</p>



Tracy Brabin
Mayor
of West Yorkshire

Find out more

westyorks-ca.gov.uk

West Yorkshire Combined Authority

Wellington House

40-50 Wellington Street

Leeds

LS1 2DE

All information correct at time of writing