

## Project Overview

Project Title	BSIP Bus Network Enhancement and Enhanced Bus Services
Date of FBC Submission	01 March 2023
Scheme Location/ Address	West Yorkshire
Applicant Organisation	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Type of Organisation	Mayoral Combined Authority
Main Funding Programme	Bus Service Improvement Plan
Sub Funding Programme (if applicable)	N/A
Project cost stated at previous Decision Point 1	£168,000,000 (for full BSIP programme)
Development cost allocated at previous Decision Point 1	£1,000,000 (for full BSIP programme) £770,000 (approved at BSIP SOC Activity 2 specifically for this scheme)
Current Forecast Project cost	£29,700,000 (for Bus Network Plan & Superbus)
Funding Applied for from the Combined Authority now	£6,228,434
Other public sector funding amounts and sources	N/A
Private sector funding amounts and sources	Operator investment - TBC
Percentage split of cost for all funding sources	Department for Transport (provided to the Combined Authority) - 100%

## Business Case Summary

### Scheme Description

This scheme is part of a 5 year plan to dramatically improve bus services in West Yorkshire and increase the number of passengers that want to travel by bus. At the moment buses do not run when and where people most want and need to travel. This scheme will improve and add routes to the bus network, increase the frequency of buses and run services at times that people need to travel. It proposes to do this by:

- Enabling the bus network to support the journeys that passengers need, especially for those who mix work, childcare and other caring responsibilities
- Enabling more households to be within walking distance of a frequent bus service to their nearest city/town centre
- Enabling better access by bus to places of work that are on the edge or out of town

- Ensuring that buses run when they are needed for people and the economy especially those that do shift work or work into the evening
- Provide bus routes that enables people to switch from the private car
- Identify new routes between communities where there is demand.

### Strategic Case

This programme contributes to the following strategies and aims of the Combined Authority:

- 1) West Yorkshire Transport and Bus Strategies
- 2) Bus Service Improvement Plan
- 3) Connectivity Infrastructure Plan
- 4) West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan

The programme responds to the Mayoral pledges:

1. 'bring buses back under public control, introduce simpler fares, contactless ticketing and greener buses'
2. 'keeping women and girls safe at the heart of my policing plan'. The programme enables the Combined Authority to have more influence over improvements to the bus network, such as more early morning and late-night services, which may reassure and encourage women to make more journeys by bus at these times of day.
3. 'tackle the climate emergency and protect the environment'

The bus network enhancements should encourage more people to make sustainable travel choices and create modal shift away from the private car to bus, contributing to better air quality.

The programme will support inclusive growth by providing new, integrated bus services which aim to provide a viable service for everyone, particularly for economically and socially deprived communities, and connect more people to good, high quality employment opportunities.

### Economic Case

New and enhanced bus services will increase the number of bus passengers, customer satisfaction and so revenue will also increase. In addition the local economy will benefit from improved accessibility to housing, employment, health and education opportunities.

### Commercial Case

Reducing passenger numbers and increasing running costs, particularly following the Covid-19 pandemic, has led to commercial services being reduced and in the worst cases withdrawn altogether. However, passenger numbers are slowly increasing to on average 85% of pre-pandemic levels (as of February 2023), with some areas and routes seeing increased demand.

Despite decreases in services there is a generally a large bus operator market in the region to contract from, with over 20 small, medium and larger operators in the region.

The changes to how routes are planned and run will require different approaches to procurement for the different stages of this project, including professional consultancy and commercial bus operators. Therefore a range of procurement processes (three quote processes, bus service tendering etc) are included within the overarching procurement strategy.

Market testing has been carried out in relation to enhanced bus proposals and further testing will be carried out as required.

### Financial Case

The forecasted programme cost is £29,700,000 from the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) Revenue funding.

## Management Case

The scheme is being developed with internal and external stakeholders including the Combined Authority's transport services and delivery teams, West Yorkshire Bus Alliance and local politicians, as well as through analysis of customer insight and intelligence gained through previous consultation exercises, such as West Yorkshire Bus Strategy and Connectivity Infrastructure Plan.

Government have requested that elements of this funding programme are contractualised within an Enhanced Partnership (EP) Scheme, therefore the statutory process in relation to EP's within the Bus Services Act 2017 needs to be followed.