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Report to: Transport Committee

Date: 17 November 2017

Subject: Department for Transport Accessibility Action Plan Consultation

Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, state paragraph number of Schedule 12a, Local Government Act 1972, Part 1	

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To set out WYCA's proposed response to the consultation being carried out by the Department for Transport (DfT) on its Draft Accessibility Action Plan, and to seek Transport Committee's endorsement of that proposed response.

2 Information

- 2.1 The DfT has published a consultation seeking views on a draft Accessibility Action Plan which sets out proposals to improve the travel experience for people with disabilities. The action plan covers a range of transport modes including planes, trains, buses and taxis. The plan also considers ways in which public spaces could be improved to make them more accessible for people with disabilities.
- 2.2 Accessible transport can make the difference between feeling socially isolated and feeling socially included. The draft Action Plan sets out the DfT's proposed strategy to address the gaps in the existing provision of transport services which serve as a barrier to people with disabilities. It sets out some specific commitments for increasing transport accessibility, and seeks views and ideas about what additional steps could be taken to create a system which enables people with disabilities to independently use the transport network.
- 2.3 WYCA will be responding to the consultation which closes on 22 November 2017. The draft consultation response is provided at **Appendix 1**.
- 2.4 A final version of the Accessibility Plan will be published by DfT in 2018.

3 Financial Implications

3.1 None as a result of this report.

4 Legal Implications

4.1 None as a result of this report

5 Staffing Implications

5.1 Response to the consultation is currently dealt with by the existing resources within Transport Policy and Transport Services.

6 External Consultees

6.1 WYCA has consulted both internally and externally to feed into the WYCA response including with the Operator Group and district colleagues.

6.2 WYCA participated in a DfT Transport Accessibility Plan Consultation Workshop in Leeds on 31 October 2017. This was a useful opportunity to share views and contribute to group discussions on transport issues. Attendees included transport providers, local authorities as well as disability stakeholder organisations and people with a disability.

6.3 WYCA has informed a number of external organisations that it regularly liaises and consults with on transport and accessibility matters including West Yorkshire Disability Organisations about the open consultation. These organisations have been encouraged to submit their own responses to the consultation.

7 Recommendations

7.1 That members endorse the submission of the consultation response.

8 Background Documents

8.1 DfT consultation documents: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/draft-transport-accessibility-action-plan>