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Report to: Transport Committee

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Subject: Petitions Regarding Bus Services

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 establish the procedure under which petitions concerning matters relating to bus services are considered by the Committee.
- 1.2 To consider a petition received in relation to bus services between Bradford and Otley.

2 Information

- 2.1 WYCA receives and responds to a range of customer feedback on matters relating to bus services together with correspondence from elected members and MPs. Officers handle most of this correspondence often liaising or referring to the relevant transport operator. WYCA has established complaints processes and procedures relating to its obligations under Freedom of Information and related legislation.
- 2.2 From time to time, a complainant will gather signatures in support of a matter which they wish to be considered by Transport Committee. This would only be appropriate for matters for which is within the terms of reference of the Committee. In such cases, handling of the matter would be at the discretion of the Chair of the Committee in consultation with WYCA's Head of Legal and Governance Services.
- 2.3 Many of the petitions submitted relate to the provision and operation of bus services. WYCA procures bus services under its powers to provide Socially Necessary Bus Services for which policy and guidelines have been adopted by the Committee. The Committee does not have the power to direct bus operators to provide a service and its ability to resolve many of the matters raised in such petitions can be limited. Nevertheless, WYCA has a role to ensure the interests of its residents are considered

by transport operators and has established the District Consultation Sub Committees to facilitate this.

- 2.4 To assist prospective petitioners where the matter raised concerns the provision, amendment or withdrawal of a bus service or a matter relating to the cost of bus travel a procedure is proposed, as detailed at **Appendix 1**.
- 2.5 In the absence of the above procedure, the Transport Committee Bus Services Working Group considered the following petition on 31 October and resolved to refer it to the Committee.

Bus Links Bradford to Otley

- 2.6 A petition has been received from Mr Shillito containing signatures from 51 households concerning the loss of a direct bus service between Bradford and Otley following the withdrawal of bus service 653. The petition stated "We the undersigned were regular users of the above bus services and wish to see the service reinstated". A copy of the petition will be available to members at the meeting.
- 2.7 TLC Travel Ltd provided this service on a commercial basis. WYCA officers have raised the petitioners' concerns with the company who advise that it was no longer commercially viable to operate. There are no other bus operators willing to provide the service.
- 2.8 WYCA has funded the continuation of an early morning journey on the service which carries workers as no alternative service is available. Whilst this service did provide some unique direct links (Shipley – Otley), this journey can still be made relatively easily by changing buses.
- 2.9 The guidelines approved by the Committee in November 2014, set out the basis of under which the Combined Authority would fund a bus service. The area affected by the withdrawal of 653 is served by other bus services which would facilitate connections to Otley with a change of bus. Reinstatement of the service at public expense would not be in line with these guidelines. It is proposed therefore that the petitioner be advised of this position.

3 Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

4 Legal Implications

- 4.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

5 Staffing Implications

- 5.1 There are no staffing implications arising directly from this report.

6 External Consultees

6.1 None.

7 Recommendations

7.1 That the procedure for considering petitions relating to bus services be adopted as set out in **Appendix 1** to this report.

7.2 That Mr Shillito be advised that the Committee has considered his petition seeking reinstatement of bus service 653 between Bradford and Otley and would advise Mr Shillito that reinstatement of the service under contract with WYCA would not be in accordance with the guidelines established by the Committee.

8 Background Documents

8.1 Petition submitted.