

## **Item 13 – Development Committee 6 December 2023**

### **Bus Reform Consultation**

The Calderdale Transport Forum had a presentation from WYCA on 27 November 2023 about the public consultation they have currently on their proposals for strategic bus reform.

WYCA is seeking to review the current strategic framework for the provision of bus services which is currently a Partnership arrangement. They are having this review because the number of people using buses is declining and customer feedback is poor.

WYCA has done an assessment of the current situation and legally there are two options possible:

1. Enhanced Partnership Plus
2. Franchising

It was stated that both options would improve the current situation but that the Franchising option would result in WYCA being responsible for contracting bus companies to operate the routes they have stipulated. This would give WYCA more control but also more risk if routes were unprofitable and revenue declined. Currently, bus companies decide themselves which routes will be provided.

Comments were made by many attending the presentation that the public is more interested in the actual delivery of the bus service rather than this more strategic issue. The response was that once the choice has been made there will be public consultations about the actual service provided.

This WYCA public consultation runs from 10 October 2023 to 7 January 2024 and decisions will be reached in March 2024.

The consultation documentation and feedback forms can be found on the link below:

[Bus Reform | Your Voice \(westyorks-ca.gov.uk\)](https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/bus-reform-your-voice)

Susan Miles

Assistant Town Clerk

27 November 2023