

Notice of Intent – The West Yorkshire Combined Authority to establish an Enhanced Partnership with operators to improve local buses.

June 2021

The West Yorkshire Combined Authority wishes to notify local bus operators and the general public of its intention to establish an Enhanced Partnership to improve local bus services.

An Enhanced Partnership, as set out in section 138 of the Transport Act 2000, is a legally binding agreement between a local transport authority and bus operators to work together to improve local bus services.

The decision to proceed with development of an Enhanced Partnership and subsequent publication of this Notice of Intent was approved by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority at its meeting on 24th June 2021.

This partnership will cover the entirety of West Yorkshire region, as defined by the boundaries of Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield local authority areas. The aim is for it to be established by April 2022, as per the requirements of the National Bus Strategy for England: Bus Back Better.

All operators running bus services across the entire West Yorkshire region are invited to participate in preparation of the Enhanced Partnership Plan and accompanying Scheme(s), and invitations with further details on this process will be issued individually.

Operators are not obliged to participate in development of the Enhanced Partnership but should note any requirements introduced will be applicable to all operators who run bus services in West Yorkshire.

It should be noted development of an Enhanced Partnership now does not preclude the Combined Authority from pursuing Franchising and / or other arrangements to improve local bus services now or at a later date.

Any queries should be directed to **Dave Pearson, Director of Transport & Property Services**, in the first instance.