

## **Notice of Intent – The West Yorkshire Combined Authority to prepare an assessment of a proposed franchising scheme**

**June 2021**

The West Yorkshire Combined Authority wishes to notify the public and local bus operators of its intention to prepare an assessment of a proposed franchising scheme, as part of its ambition to improve regional bus services.

The proposed scheme as currently envisaged would cover the entirety of the West Yorkshire region, as defined by the boundaries of Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield local authority areas.

In accordance with sections 123B and S123C(4) of the Transport Act 2000, the West Yorkshire Combined Authority has authorised the publication of this Notice of Intent to prepare the assessment at its meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

Pursuant to section 123C (2) (a) of the 2000 Act, the Secretary of State's permission to carry out the assessment of the proposed scheme is not required because the scheme relates to the Area of a Mayoral Combined Authority. The Bus Services Act 2017 amended the 2000 Act to provide the Authority with powers to reform the bus market and these provisions provide for new types of partnership schemes and the option to franchise bus services. The West Yorkshire Combined Authority will act as the Transport Executive for the region to assess the new bus reform options available under the Act including an assessment of the proposed franchising scheme.

It should be noted preparation of this franchising assessment does not preclude the Combined Authority from pursuing an Enhanced Partnership and / or other arrangements to improve local bus services now or in the interim.

You can find out more on the West Yorkshire Combined Authority website. For further information, please contact **Liz Hunter, Director of Policy and Development**, in the first instance.