



West
Yorkshire
Combined
Authority

Tracy
Brabin
Mayor of
West Yorkshire

Our Reference: 2866

25/02/2026

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Enquiry: Bus Franchising and Mass Transit Planning & Consultancy Costs

Thank you for contacting West Yorkshire Combined Authority ('the Combined Authority') with your request for information, which was received on 28/01/2026.

Your request was:

"is it possible to ask for the costs involved in the most recent tram planning and consultancy costs.

Also can I ask the planning costs for the bus franchising to date"

This request was handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, and I can confirm that the information covered by your request is available on the Combined Authority website.

Mass Transit (Tram)

The information covered by your request is located within the latest Mass Transit Update Report considered at the West Yorkshire Combined Authority meeting on Thursday, 18th September 2025. Please see link below to the Report, the relevant information begins at Section 7, Further Scheme Development Costs (page 17).

[Item 7 - Mass Transit Update and Drawdown.pdf](#)

Bus Franchising

The information covered by your request is located within the Bus Franchising Update Report considered at the West Yorkshire Combined Authority meeting on Thursday, 22nd January 2026. Please see link below to the Report.

[Item 7 - Bus Franchising Update.pdf](#)



For ease, the Bus Franchising Transition Programme Revenue Cost Breakdown from Appendix 1 of the Report has been included below. Please note, the table below includes both spending to date and forecast spend across the remainder of the transition period. The current year ("Year 2" – 2025/26) includes 9 months of actual costs and 3 months of forecasted costs.

Appendix 1 – Bus Franchising Transition Programme Revenue Cost Breakdown

- For each area of spend, two cost figures are presented within each year. The top cost figure represents original estimates set out within the Management Case and the bottom cost figure represents the latest forecast. Variance between the original and revised costs is also displayed for each area of spend.

Area of spend		Expenditure Profile (values in £ millions)				
		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Total
Internal management costs	Original	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	1.5
	Revised	0.8	2.2	3.0	3.1	9.1
	Variance	0.4	1.8	2.6	2.8	7.6
External technical support costs	Original	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.6	6.5
	Revised	1.1	6.5	5.1	2.5	15.1
	Variance	(0.6)	4.9	3.5	0.9	8.6
Early mobilisation of procurement resource	Original	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.5
	Revised	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.3
	Variance	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.2)
Early mobilisation of additional management	Original	0.0	0.7	1.7	2.9	5.4
	Revised	0.0	0.1	2.6	2.7	5.5
	Variance	0.0	(0.6)	0.9	(0.2)	0.1
Provision for risk	Original	3.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	6.5
	Revised	0.0	0.0	1.8	1.8	3.5
	Variance	(3.1)	(1.1)	0.7	0.7	(3.0)
IT Provisional Costs	Original	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2
	Revised	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Variance	0.0	0.0	(0.2)	0.0	(0.2)
Total transition cost	Original	5.4	3.9	5.1	6.0	20.4
	Revised	1.9	8.8	12.6	10.2	33.4
	Variance	(3.5)	4.9	7.5	4.2	13.0

- It should be noted that the significant reduction in the provision for risk reflects the removal of an unspent Year 1 risk allowance, including £2 million which had previously been set aside to account for the risk of potential legal challenge of the decision to proceed with the Franchising Scheme which has not materialised.

If you believe that your request for information has not been handled properly, you can ask for an internal review of our decision. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:



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Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
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SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Website: www.ico.gov.uk

For your information, there is no charge for making an appeal.

Yours sincerely,

Information Governance Officer

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