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**To: Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee**

**Date: 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

**Subject: Bus Innovation**

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## **1 Purpose of the Note**

- 1.1 To provide members of Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee with some background information for consideration of an item on Bus Innovation

## **2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee are recommended to:

- 1) Consider the information discussed and agreed at their meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020
- 2) Consider the information presented at the meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020
- 3) Identify any recommendations for the appropriate Cabinet Member or appointed representatives on partner organisations

## **3 Background and Information**

- 3.1 At their meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> February, Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee considered an item on Bus Provision in Coventry.
- 3.2 Members heard from and questioned representatives from Transport for West Midlands (TfWM), National Express and Council officers.
- 3.3 Members questioned the officers and representatives on a number of issues and responses were provided. Matters raised included:
- Although bus usage had flatlined in Coventry over recent years, there had also been a considerable population increase during this time so was the service meeting expectations
  - Clarification about the impact of the Council's decision relating to the removal of bus lanes
  - The impact of climate change and the need to introduce improvements to the service to encourage more people to use public transport
  - The requirement for additional measures/ services in relation to the expected 2.5m visitors coming to Coventry during City of Culture 2021
  - Information about the role of the West Midlands Combined Authority Transport Delivery Group

- An update on the Ring and Ride Service
- The suggestion that re-regulation would allow for improved services and how could the Council contribute to the current review
- A suggestion that bus travel needed to be more convenient than making a car journey.

3.4 Following discussions at the meeting, Members requested further information on:

- Framework of options under the Bus Services Act 2017 and how Coventry could input into the current review
- Breakdown of the levy, i.e. the specific costs for Coventry
- Detailed statistics for the recently introduced platinum bus service (12/ 12x)
- Infrastructure solutions to assist bus travel to be more convenient than the car.

3.5 At the meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> February, Members will also receive a presentation covering the following:

- Opportunity to improve services - frequency/routes
- Opportunity to reduce the environmental impact of buses
- Opportunities to increase use of digital for improved customer service and links with 5G
- Innovation
- Work being undertaken with City of Culture

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