



**To: Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3)**

**Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021**

**Subject: Bus Provision and Innovation in Coventry**

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## **1 Purpose of the Note**

- 1.1 To provide the Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) with a progress update following items on Bus Provision and Bus Innovation in Coventry considered by Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee (SCRUCO) at their meetings on 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020

## **2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) are recommended to:
- 1) Consider the information provided, including the Cabinet Report – All Electric Bus City and Enhanced Partnership Plan, at Appendix A
  - 2) Identify any further recommendations to the Cabinet Member and/or Transport for the West Midlands

## **3 Background**

- 3.1 At their meetings on 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020, SCRUCO considered items on Bus Provision in Coventry and Bus Innovation in Coventry.
- 3.2 Representatives from the City Council, Transport for West Midlands and National Express (the largest bus operator in the city) attended both meetings and were questioned by the Committee on the following areas:
- How people can be encouraged to leave their cars at home and use the bus
  - Issues regarding congestion and bus priority measures other than bus lanes
  - Ticket prices
  - Data available and use of data to provide service information and planning
  - Opportunities available within the Bus Services Act 2017 around franchising and partnerships
  - Proposals for a specific Bus Performance Board in Coventry
  - Digitalisation of travel information and ticketing and links with City of Culture 2021
  - Funding opportunities for innovative projects to make bus travel more attractive

3.3 SCRUCO made the following recommendations to Transport for the West Midlands:

- 1) The Committee supports the establishment of the proposed Coventry Bus Performance Board and requests robust lines of accountability to the Council Lead Member for Transportation, with Scrutiny having the opportunity for an overview of the work of the Board as requested.
- 2) Opportunities be provided to allow for Coventry City Council scrutiny to feed into the discussions on the development of the Strategic Outline Business Case for the franchising option.
- 3) Support be given to the development of apps which provide passengers with real time up to date bus information to help encourage an increase in bus patronage.
- 4) Support be given to the suggestion to use multi-lingual communications on local buses.
- 5) Support be given to funding bids for Coventry being submitted by Transport for West Midlands for a number of Government initiatives including Electric City and Superbus.

3.4 SCRUCO also requested a further update in 6-months' time. Due to lockdown and a change in priorities for work programming SCRUCO has not taken a progress report. However, public transport issues fall within the remit of the Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3), and with the Chairs agreement the update will be considered at their meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021.

#### **4 Current Position**

- 4.1 On 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021, Cabinet agreed recommendations in a report on All Electric Bus City and Enhanced Partnership Plan (Appendix A)
- 4.2 This report provides information on the application process to the All Electric Bus Town fund, the areas covered as well as the accountable body. The report also provides information about the Enhanced Partnership Plan for the West Midlands area, which provides a strategic context for joint working between bus operators and local authorities that could be beneficial for the All Electric Bus Town scheme.

#### **Appendices**

Appendix A: All Electric Bus City & Enhanced Partnership Plan Report

Appendix A1: WMCA Letter

Appendix A2: Plan

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