

Mayor Tracy Brabin
West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Wellington House
40-50 Wellington Street
Leeds
LS1 2DE

12th Aug 2022

Dear Prime Minister, Chancellor and Secretary of State,

Over recent months, we have each shared concerns with the Secretary of State and relevant Ministers that the planned end of Bus Service Recovery Grant would precipitate significant bus service cuts in early October. In each of our regions, bus operators have now notified that they intend to withdraw hundreds of bus routes resulting in many communities losing access to any form of public transport. In addition, a large number of routes will lose all services after 7pm in the evening, preventing many shift workers using bus services to travel to and from work. Over half of all bus routes will be affected in some form.

Without action, the changes to bus provision will have a devastating effect on the communities affected, add to the cost-of-living crisis and will compromise the aims of the National Bus Strategy introduced just last year. Whilst some areas are able to act to mitigate the worst impacts in the near term, this will not be sustainable for the longer term unless future financial support is forthcoming – particularly those places yet to receive BSIP funding settlements.

There is still time to prevent this. If funding can be maintained in a form which will allow a more managed transition into a new “post pandemic” bus network we can support communities across the country. We are each keen to implement our Bus Service Improvement Plan and are committed to improving services for passengers working closely with bus companies. However, we doubt if this can be achieved if our starting point is a network which has been severely impacted by short term decision making by both Government and bus companies.

We would urge Government to act quickly to prevent cuts to essential bus services, which will only add more hardship to those already suffering under this cost-of-living crisis.

Yours Sincerely,



Tracy Brabin
Mayor of West Yorkshire



Jamie Driscoll
Mayor of North of Tyne



Oliver Coppard
Mayor of South Yorkshire



Steve Rotherham
Mayor of Liverpool City Region

