

# ENVIRONMENTAL SCRUTINY

Welsh Government White Paper – ‘One Network, One Timetable, One Ticket’ Consultation Response

**CABINET PORTFOLIO: Transport, Councillor De’Ath**  
**16<sup>st</sup> June 2022**

# The Welsh Government White Paper: Report Recommendations

1. To approve the Council's response to the Welsh Government White Paper consultation "One network, one timetable, one ticket: planning buses as a public service for Wales"
2. To note the Council's ambitious wider Bus Improvement Programme

# White Paper: Background

- Potential significant impacts on Council delivery of bus services
- Bus patronage has only returned to approximately 70% of the pre-COVID19 - many bus services now not commercial
- Ongoing Bus Emergency Scheme (BES) funding next stage BES3.0
- In return Welsh Government requires operators to support major change
- Greater public sector control of bus services is envisaged
- However, significant areas of concern

# White Paper Objective

Goal of the proposed reforms align closely to the Cardiff Transport White Paper 2020 as well as the One Planet Strategy and Local Development Plan providing a “coherent, effective, efficient and clean bus network”:

- Enabling people to get to and from their places of work, education, or to hospitality or social activities.
- Encourage people out of their cars onto more efficient transport.
- Improve air quality and reduce our carbon footprint, contributing to a healthier Wales.
- Widespread access to bus services which makes it affordable for all members of society.

# Key White Paper Proposals

1: Establish Wales wide model of franchising - control the quality, quantum and network of bus services.

- Local authorities have a say in designing the network with assistance from TfW.
- CJC's prepare a regional plan with input from the local authorities.
- National Supervisory Board.
- Ministerial approval of the national plan.
- TfW would then implement the overall franchise plan on behalf of the Welsh Government.

2: Seeks to Establish a long-term funding and Governance model

3: Seeks to support Net Zero Targets

# White Paper Key Issues

- Risk of diminishing local authority control.
- Risks to Municipal Bus Companies.
- Potential Merger of Municipal Bus Companies.
- Funding: Lack of clarity over future funding streams (revenue risk from operations would transfer to the public sector). Additional funding is likely to be needed to achieve the Net Zero Wales target of the service bus fleet to be zero emission by 2035.
- Potential increased pressure on Council budgets for supported services – uncertainty over Local Authority obligations under the Transport Act 1985.
- Potential pressures on Council resources to design and influence bus service decisions and/or transfer of service functions.
- Uncertainty of impacts on local funding including section 106 developer contributions.
- Network stability if franchised route or area fails – Operator of Last Resort.

# White Paper

## Key Recommendations of Council's Response

- Support for the aims and objectives of the White Paper.
- The White Paper does not provide enough detail to give Cardiff Council assurance that its interests in the Municipal Bus Company would be protected.
- Significant risk to the Council if Cardiff Bus is not provided with a fail-safe mechanism to ensure the business has a secure platform to operate from.

Consultation Responses Deadline: 24<sup>th</sup> June 2022

## White Paper: Next steps

- Delegated approval for Director of PTE to submit Cardiff Council's response on the Welsh Government White Paper on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2022.
- Electric Bus Scheme.

## **Part 2:**

# **Update on the current Bus programme and the 5 yr Bus Strategy**

# Cardiff Council Bus Improvement Programme: Background

- Cardiff Transport 10yr Strategy (2019) seeks to double bus usage in the city by 2030.

Establish a rail/bus based public ‘mass transit’ transport system is a priority of Cardiff Council.

- Bus Strategy and Park and Ride Strategy (December 2022)
  - Complete the Bus Interchange
  - Create New Priority Bus ‘Smart’ Corridors
  - Metro Integration
  - Integrated Ticketing and Information
  - Creating a Better Customer Experience
  - A Low Emission/Zero Carbon Bus Fleet
  - Integration of Schools Transport

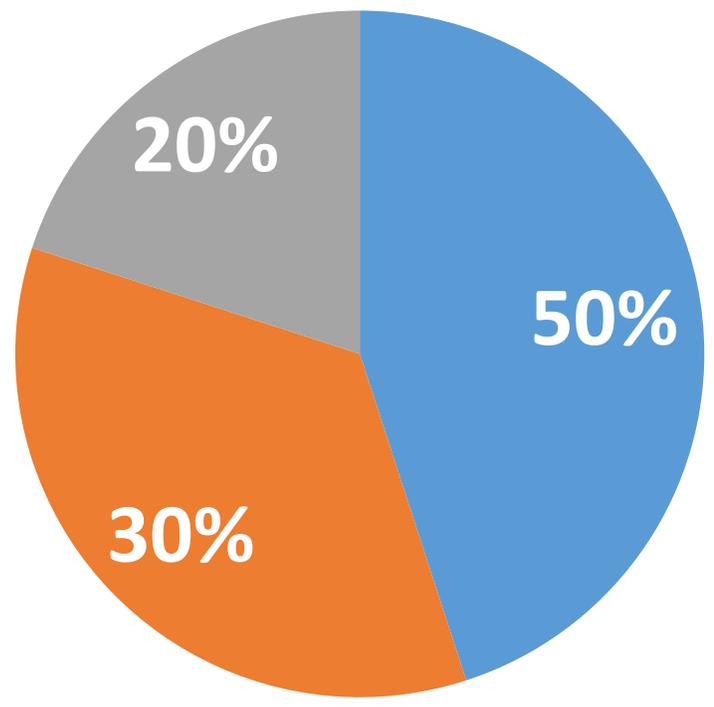
# Cardiff Council Bus Improvement Programme: Five Year Plan

Council is currently working in collaboration with the Welsh Government, Transport for Wales (TfW), Burns Delivery Unit, Cardiff City Region, bus operators, key partners and stakeholders on:

- Bus Fares, Integrated ticketing, Phone App and Demand Responsive Transport (Fflecsi).
- Regional bus rapid transit links, Smart Corridor and local bus route improvements.
- New Integrated Train Station at Newport Road and Cardiff Parkway, St Mellons.
- City Centre Clean Air Improvements – Central Square, City Centre East, Castle Street, Boulevard de Nantes.
- Bus Lane and Bus Gate improvements
- £1 bus pilots

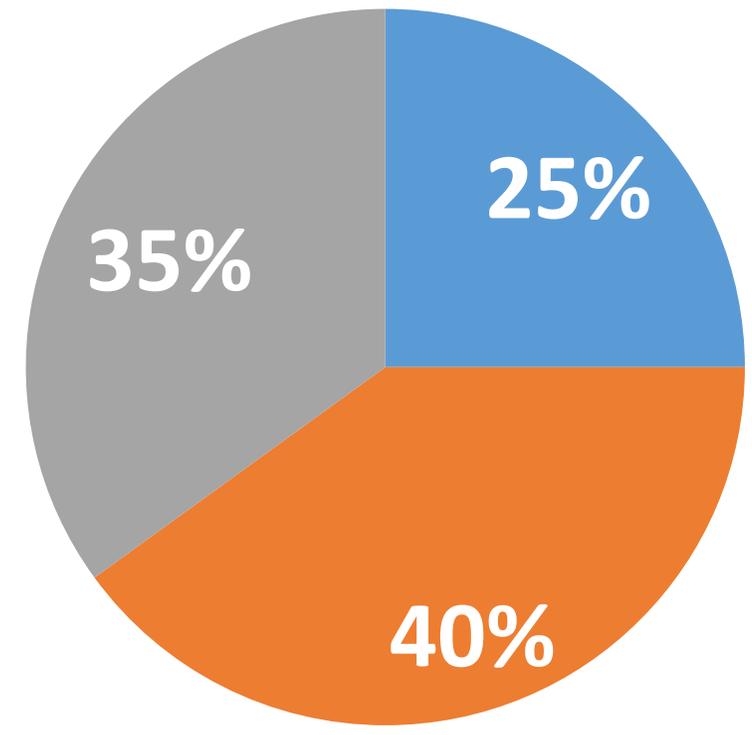
### CURRENT MODE SPLIT

■ car ■ walking and cycling ■ bus and train



### LOOKING AHEAD

■ car ■ walking and cycling ■ bus and train



## Immediate Interventions

- Close engagement with Cardiff Bus
- Review of Event Network Arrangements
- Address quick fix bus priority
- Traffic signal modifications
- Enforcement

# Medium-term Measures

- New bus interchange
- Castle St/City Centre Air Quality: Modelling / Permanent Scheme Dec 2022
- Define 5 year linked programmes for Bus / Metro /Cycle – aligned 10yr targets
- Re Bus – a joined up position with operators/WG/ User groups
- Align with Franchising/Integrated Ticketing Opportunities
- Deliver key ‘gold standard’ bus/active travel corridors