

PUBLIC TRANSPORT EXPENDITURE IN THE WEST MIDLANDS

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Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) responsible for the delivery of public transport and nearly 326 million passenger journeys a year in the region.

TfWM is the transport arm of the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA), which is a major focus for the organisation.

This is the first leaflet explaining where funding for transport is allocated since the formation of TfWM, which replaced the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority and Centro when they were dissolved in June 2016.

TfWM continues the work of its predecessor to invest in the improvement of the regional transport structure, working towards an integrated public transport system that's safe and secure. At the same time we are busy planning for the future and you will find some of our ambitious projects in this leaflet.

We are working alongside the seven Metropolitan Districts to ensure that the 2.8 million people who live and work in the region benefit from an effective transport system that meets the economic and environmental needs of the West Midlands, as well as providing access to jobs, finding innovative ways to help reduce congestion and offering seamless connectivity for people and goods to UK and overseas markets.

TfWM manages 12 bus stations and provides over 11,400 passenger stops, stands and shelters with many interchanges. Passenger information is found at all these, along with Real Time Information (RTI) displays at 1,346 shelters and 105 stops showing when your next bus will arrive. RTI is also found at all local rail stations and all Metro stops.

TfWM also works in partnership with operators in the region - as Network West Midlands - to develop integrated ticketing that meets customer needs. We oversee the English National Travel Concessionary

Scheme for West Midlands' residents, with 496,000 registered card holders who made 61.3 million journeys in 2015-16. We also subsidise socially necessary bus services at a cost of £7.5 million.

We provide park and ride facilities and work with operators to provide other improvements, such as the West Midlands Bus Alliance, or proposals to give more powers over local rail services to us as West Midlands Rail.

As owners of Midland Metro we promote and develop Line One and its planned extensions, details of which are in this leaflet.

We are also committed to improving the environment and cutting CO2 emissions and are giving more people sustainable travel options including cycle routes and storage, maintenance and safe riding courses and security marking.

Ring and Ride, primarily funded by TfWM, is the main demand-responsive transport service for people in the West Midlands with limited mobility. 112 buses provide over 850,000 trips a year for nearly 17,500 registered users.

DEVELOPMENTS LAST YEAR:

APRIL 2016 TO MARCH 2017

BUS

Delivery of the award-winning Bus Alliance continued, with bus operators purchasing 100 new high-specification buses for services across the region, installed with free wi-fi and electric charging points. To support this, TfWM has been working with local councils to identify the locations where buses are delayed, so that service punctuality can be improved.

Following another successful bid to the Government's Clean Vehicle Technology Fund, over 200 buses have been equipped with exhaust traps, making them amongst the cleanest vehicles on the road. Across the region, exhaust emissions from buses have halved in the last three years.

In June we signed new contracts for the supply and maintenance of all of our bus stops and shelters. This includes a contract for the provision of new digital advertising panels at 300 bus shelters, the income from which helps support the costs of keeping facilities safe and clean.

The government will be introducing new legislation in 2017 that will make it easier for Local Authorities to work more closely with bus operators to improve services. TfWM has contributed to the development of this to ensure that we can use it effectively in the West Midlands.

Vehicle-activated doors were installed at Coventry and Walsall bus stations, proving highly successful, drastically reducing the amount of people walking within the bus station roadways.

RAIL

We continued working with Worcestershire County Council to complete the construction of the new station for Bromsgrove, which became operational in spring 2016. The new station will facilitate an increased train service frequency after electrification of the line in 2018.

TfWM worked with London Midland to refresh the partnership agreement following the award of London Midland's new franchise to October 2017. This ensured that passenger benefits continued to be delivered ahead of the refranchising of the London Midland and Virgin West Coast businesses.

TfWM continued to explore other key rail projects in line with the economic needs and priorities of our region, including further investment in stations, for example improved safety and security measures at Bescot Rail Station Park & Ride, encouraging greater use of the car park facility.

The Park & Ride lighting upgrade scheme has now entered its final phase and will mean that all TfWM-managed car parks have energy efficient LED lighting.

During 2017, TfWM will begin a programme to upgrade old CCTV equipment, providing sharper digital camera images to improve safety and security on the network.

METRO

The Birmingham City Centre Extension to Grand Central opened and the new stop at Snow Hill came into operation. TfWM formed a Midlands Metro Alliance with designers and constructors who together will create a team which will, over the next 10 years, develop and build the Metro extensions. The Alliance has already started preparing for the extension of the network.

Works on the Centenary Square and Wolverhampton City Centre routes continued, with utilities being moved out of the path of the Metro to help the construction of these routes. Business cases for the extensions to Eastside and Hagley Road were submitted to the Department for Transport for approval.

As part of the future extensions of the Metro, the development of areas where trams are able to run without overhead electric cables or 'catenary free' continued. The vehicles will run on the 'wire free' section of the Centenary Square extension in early 2017.

Planning was approved and funding secured to build a Park & Ride site at Bradley Lane.

TECHNOLOGY

TFWM harnessed developments in technology, allowing service disruption announcements to go through one central system. After details were received from operators, passengers were then informed through updates on the web, via mobile and from social media, with Real Time Information displays and digital screens also being used.

A brand new Network West Midlands website provided highly-detailed travel and ticketing information, personalised for the individual. The new look gives a fully-integrated user experience across all devices and platforms, making networkwestmidlands.com an evolving, key tool for all public transport information in the West Midlands.

Social media continued to grow, with our Twitter and Facebook presence offering passengers travel information much more quickly, along with offers, promotions and news.

HOW WE SPEND THE LEVY MONEY

TFWM NET BUDGET SPENDING £121.5M	2016/17 £M	2017/18 £M
Concessions for elderly and disabled people	53.6	52.7
Accessible Transport (Ring & Ride Services and Other Concessions)	24.1	21.4
Subsidised Bus Services	7.6	7.8
Bus Services, Infrastructure & Information	10.0	12.4
Rail Services	2.3	2.8
TfWM Policy & Strategy & Elected Members	1.5	2.3
Corporate Services	3.3	3.4
Financing Costs	23.4	18.8
Use of Reserves	(1.0)	0.0
Total Expenditure	124.8	121.5
Funded By: District Levy	124.8	121.5

COUNCIL	POPULATION	LEVY £M	%
BIRMINGHAM	1,111,300	47.7	39.2%
COVENTRY	345,400	14.8	12.2%
DUDLEY	316,500	13.6	11.2%
SANDWELL	319,500	13.7	11.3%
SOLIHULL	210,400	9.0	7.4%
WALSALL	276,100	11.8	9.7%
WOLVERHAMPTON	254,400	10.9	9.0%
Total	2,833,600	121,542	100.0%

This is equal to a gross levy (before tax) of £44.45 for each resident. Individual councils receive a central government grant towards these costs.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT INVESTMENT PROGRAMME	2016/17 £M	2017/18 £M
Rapid Transit	22.6	64.7
Bus	1.5	2.0
Rail	7.5	1.9
Other	0.1	1.1
Total	31.7	69.7

CAPITAL INVESTMENT FUNDING	2016/17 £M	2017/18 £M
Grants	23.9	34.6
Borrowing	5.4	33.8
3rd Party / Private / Other	2.4	1.3
Total	31.7	69.7

PLANS THIS YEAR:

APRIL 2017 TO MARCH 2018

BUS

The innovative Bus Alliance will continue to develop and implement further investment in the network, increase standards and improve bus links. Bus Network Development Plans will be prepared for the whole region to ensure bus services support growth and improved accessibility.

Bus operators are committed to continue investing in the region's bus fleet, with vehicles such as National Express's 'Platinum' brand truly transforming bus travel. There will be even more investment in these British-built vehicles, which have exceptional levels of comfort, are lighter and more fuel efficient than conventional vehicles and have some of the cleanest diesel engines in the world. Exciting projects to bring electric buses and hydrogen-powered buses to the region are also being progressed.

We will continue to maintain and develop high-quality bus stops and shelters as well as providing subsidy to fund unprofitable routes and supporting the region's Ring and Ride service.

RAIL

More than 8,000 car parking spaces are already provided by the WMCA across the network, greatly contributing to rail growth and reducing carbon dioxide emissions by over 6,000 tonnes, through taking more than three million journeys off the region's roads each year.

We will continue to invest in car parking expansion and projects we are looking to deliver in 2017 include a car park extension at Tipton Rail station.

WMCA is a key partner in West Midlands Rail, which this year will see the launch of the new franchise. When the franchise is awarded, there will be a 30% increase in peak capacity, better trains and stations and improved Sunday and evening frequencies. In partnership with the Department for Transport, West Midlands Rail will hold the new operator to account for their performance and delivery.

METRO

This year will see the completion of advanced utilities works and the start of main construction on the Centenary Square extension in Birmingham, while advance works and utilities on the Wolverhampton City Centre extension will be completed.

In conjunction with Wolverhampton City Council, the second phase of the on-street track replacement and highway works between Priestfield and the Royal tram stops on Bilston Road will be carried out and a brand new Park & Ride will open at the Bradley Lane tram stop.

The business case for the extension to Edgbaston will be completed and submitted to government, while the business case for the route from Wednesbury to Brierley Hill will also be sent to government.

TECHNOLOGY

We will put a roadmap in place in order to deliver a comprehensive West Midlands-wide enhanced contactless and token-based “Oyster” style ticketing and payments scheme. We shall also develop the successful nBus, nTrain and nNetwork schemes, continuing to support the transition to Swift Smart ticketing and contactless payment.

A commercial “Mobility as a Service” pilot project will be introduced in the region in 2017, only the second in the world, allowing customers to have all their comprehensive public and private transport services available through an App.

We will enable the delivery of a range of innovative initiatives which offer technological solutions to transport problems in the West Midlands. In particular, we will continue to grow the transport incubator at iCentrum and build TfWM’s reputation as a transport innovator, paying particular attention to new payment technologies, Smart Cities, HS2 digital strategy and connected and autonomous vehicles.

The development and implementation of strategic partnerships, particularly with TfL and the wider region will continue, especially in the areas of information and innovation.

The management of all stages of information acquisition, production and distribution of digital, real-time and printed information will continue this year, ensuring that Real Time Information and interactive app information for customers is accurate and up-to-date.

We will progress plans and strategies to keep customers informed when planned and unplanned events and disruptions occur, so that passengers can make informed choices about their travel.

If you would like this leaflet in a form more suited to your needs, please call 0345 303 6760 or e-mail customerservices@tfwm.org.uk

West Midlands Combined Authority produces this leaflet to give you a summary of the work it does to improve all aspects of public transport.

To find out more about the work West Midlands Combined Authority does, including new projects and public consultations please visit our website.