

North Yorkshire Council

Corporate Director of Environment

31 March 2025

Delegation of Local Transport Functions

Report of the Assistant Director - Environment and Transport

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider a one month extension to the delegation of Local Transport Functions from the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority from 31 March 2025 to 30 April 2025.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Following the establishment of the York & North Yorkshire Combined Authority (YNYCA) in 2024, Local Transport Functions which are used to deliver most of the public transport activity carried out by North Yorkshire Council (NYC) were transferred to the YNYCA.
- 2.2 These bus powers were then delegated back to NYC in August 2024 to allow teams within the Environment Service to continue to deliver public transport functions such as provision of supported local bus services and the statutory concessionary travel scheme. This delegation was accepted by the Corporate Director - Environment on 2 August 2024 and is due to expire on 31 March 2025.

3.0 SUMMARY

3.1 Public Transport delivery for 2025/26

- 3.2 With only a small transport team in place at the Combined Authority, it is now expected that NYC and City of York Council (CYC) will continue to carry out day-to-day local transport functions on behalf of the Combined Authority in the same way as has been successfully done in 2024/25. This will require the delegation of functions to be extended.

- 3.3 Since the establishment of the YNYCA officers from NYC, CYC and the Combined Authority have worked together to ensure our BSIP plans align and that passengers will see a joined up approach on bus fares and bus services.

- 3.4 It is expected that a longer term delegation agreement will be offered by the YNYCA and this will be subject to consideration by the NYC Executive on 15 April 2025.

- 3.5 In order that officers can continue to carry out day-to-day local transport functions before this, it is proposed that a one month extension to the current delegation agreement (until 30 April 2025) is accepted. This will allow time for the Executive to take a decision regarding a new delegation agreement should one be offered by the YNYCA.

4.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 None, extending the current delegation of Transport Functions will allow officers to carry out local bus activities on a business as usual basis while a longer term decision is taken.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The provision of the service will continue to be met from the existing budgets. There are no additional financial implications arising as a result of this report.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 In accordance with Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Authorities (Arrangements for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012 a local authority and/or a Combined Authority may make arrangements, subject as provided therein, for the discharge of any of their functions by (inter alia) any other local authority.
- 6.2 By virtue of Article 13(3) of the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority Order 2023 the functions specified in Parts 4 (local transport services) and 5 (financial provisions) of the Transport Act 1985 and Part 2 of the Transport Act 2000 are exercisable by the YNYCA ('Local Transport Functions').
- 6.3 We understand that, pursuant to section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 Act, YNYCA intends to continue to delegate the discharge of the Local Transport Functions (excluding S108, 109, S112 and 154 of the Transport Act 2000, which are decisions for the Mayor) within the administrative area of North Yorkshire to NYC, and for the administrative area of the City of York (CYC) subject to the terms and conditions of a S101 Agreement. The proposal is to extend the existing S101 Agreement between NYC, CYC and YNYCA for a period of one month from 31 March 2025 to 30 April 2025. A further report regarding the arrangement for 2025/26 shall be considered by the Executive on 15 April 2025.
- 6.4 In respect of S108, 109, S112 and S154 of the Transport Act 2000, YNYCA, CYC and NYC intend to discharge these powers jointly in accordance with the Order and S101 (5) Local Government Act 1972.

7.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Consideration has been given to the potential for any adverse equality impacts arising from this decision (see Appendix A). Extending the delegation of Transport Functions will allow officers to carry out business as usual activities involving local bus services which are often relied on by older, disabled or lower income groups.

8.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Consideration has been given to the potential for any adverse climate impacts arising from this decision and a Climate Change Impact Assessment (CCIA) has been undertaken. (Appendix B). Extending the delegation of Transport Functions will allow officers to carry out business as usual activities involving local bus services which support travel by more sustainable modes and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transport by reducing private car journeys.

9.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Accepting a one month extension to the current delegation of Transport Functions will allow officers to carry out public transport activities for the benefit of residents and passengers while a longer term decision is made.

10.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 10.1 It is recommended that the Corporate Director - Environment is asked to consider the information in this report and:
- i. accept an extension of one month (until 30 April 2025) to the delegation of Local Transport Functions from the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority;
 - ii. enter into a variation and extension agreement to the existing S101 Agreement between NYC, CYC and YNYCA in respect of the exercise of the delegated transport functions for one month.

APPENDICES:

Appendix A - Equalities Impact Assessment
Appendix B - Climate Change Impact Assessment

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

None

*Mike Leah
Assistant Director - Environment and Transport
County Hall
Northallerton
26 March 2025*

*Report Author – Andy Clarke Public & Community Transport Manager
Presenter of Report – Mike Leah Assistant Director Integrated Passenger Transport*

Note: Members are invited to contact the author in advance of the meeting with any detailed queries or questions.

Initial equality impact assessment screening form			
This form records an equality screening process to determine the relevance of equality to a proposal, and a decision whether or not a full EIA would be appropriate or proportionate.			
Directorate	Environment		
Service area	Integrated Passenger Transport		
Proposal being screened	Delegation of Local Transport functions		
Officer(s) carrying out screening	Andy Clarke		
What are you proposing to do?	To extend the delegation of Local Transport Functions from the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority for one month from 31 March 2025 to 30 April 2025.		
Why are you proposing this? What are the desired outcomes?	This will allow NYC officers to continue to deliver Local Transport Functions while a longer term decision is taken.		
Does the proposal involve a significant commitment or removal of resources? Please give details.	no		
Impact on people with any of the following protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010, or NYCC's additional agreed characteristics As part of this assessment, please consider the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent is this service used by particular groups of people with protected characteristics? Does the proposal relate to functions that previous consultation has identified as important? Do different groups have different needs or experiences in the area the proposal relates to? <p>If for any characteristic it is considered that there is likely to be an adverse impact or you have ticked 'Don't know/no info available', then a full EIA should be carried out where this is proportionate. You are advised to speak to your Equality rep for advice if you are in any doubt.</p>			
Protected characteristic	Potential for adverse impact		Don't know/No info available
	Yes	No	
Age		X	
Disability		X	
Sex		X	
Race		X	
Sexual orientation		X	
Gender reassignment		X	
Religion or belief		X	
Pregnancy or maternity		X	
Marriage or civil partnership		X	
People in rural areas		X	
People on a low income		X	
Carer (unpaid family or friend)		X	
Are from the Armed Forces Community		X	
Does the proposal relate to an area where there are known inequalities/probable impacts (e.g. disabled people's access to public transport)? Please give details.	This will allow officers to continue to carry out business as usual activities to support local bus services which are often relied on by older, disabled or lower income groups.		
Will the proposal have a significant effect on how other organisations operate? (e.g. partners, funding criteria, etc.). Do any of these organisations support people with protected characteristics? Please explain why you have reached this conclusion.	no		

APPENDIX A

Decision (Please tick one option)	EIA not relevant or proportionate:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Continue to full EIA:	
Reason for decision	This extension of delegation will enable the council to continue to support local bus services which will bring benefits for bus passengers including groups with protected characteristics.			
Signed (Assistant Director or equivalent)	Mike Leah			
Date	26.03.2025			

Climate change impact assessment

The purpose of this assessment is to help us understand the likely impacts of our decisions on the environment of North Yorkshire and on our aspiration to achieve net carbon neutrality by 2030, or as close to that date as possible. The intention is to mitigate negative effects and identify projects which will have positive effects.

This document should be completed in consultation with the supporting guidance. The final document will be published as part of the decision-making process and should be written in Plain English.

If you have any additional queries which are not covered by the guidance, please email climatechange@northyorks.gov.uk

Please note: You may not need to undertake this assessment if your proposal will be subject to any of the following:
 Planning Permission
 Environmental Impact Assessment
 Strategic Environmental Assessment

However, you will still need to summarise your findings in in the summary section of the form below.

Please contact climatechange@northyorks.gov.uk for advice.

Title of proposal	Delegation of Local Transport functions
Brief description of proposal	To extend the delegation of Local Transport Functions from the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority for one month from 31 March 2025 to 30 April 2025.
Directorate	Environment
Service area	Integrated Passenger Transport
Lead officer	Andy Clarke
Names and roles of other people involved in carrying out the impact assessment	Andy Clarke
Date impact assessment started	17 March 2025

<p>Options appraisal Were any other options considered in trying to achieve the aim of this project? If so, please give brief details and explain why alternative options were not progressed.</p> <p>None, extending the current delegation of Transport Functions will allow officers to carry out local bus activities on a business as usual basis while a longer term decision is taken.</p>
<p>What impact will this proposal have on council budgets? Will it be cost neutral, have increased cost or reduce costs?</p> <p>No impact on NYC budgets.</p>

<p>How will this proposal impact on the environment?</p> <p>N.B. There may be short term negative impact and longer term positive impact. Please include all potential impacts over the lifetime of a project and provide an explanation.</p>	<p>Positive impact (Place a X in the box below where</p>	<p>No impact (Place a X in the box below where</p>	<p>Negative impact (Place a X in the box below where</p>	<p>Explain why will it have this effect and over what timescale?</p> <p>Where possible/relevant please include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes over and above business as usual • Evidence or measurement of effect • Figures for CO₂e • Links to relevant documents 	<p>Explain how you plan to mitigate any negative impacts.</p>	<p>Explain how you plan to improve any positive outcomes as far as possible.</p>
<p>Minimise greenhouse gas emissions e.g. reducing emissions from travel,</p>	<p>Emissions from travel</p>	<p>X</p>		<p>Providing and improving bus services encourages modal shift from the private car which reduces emissions.</p>	<p>More bus routes are now operated by electric buses which further supports a</p>	<p>Strengthening bus services increases passenger numbers, which in turn increases the</p>

APPENDIX B

<p>How will this proposal impact on the environment?</p> <p>N.B. There may be short term negative impact and longer term positive impact. Please include all potential impacts over the lifetime of a project and provide an explanation.</p>	<p>Positive impact (Place a X in the box below where</p>	<p>No impact (Place a X in the box below where</p>	<p>Negative impact (Place a X in the box below where</p>	<p>Explain why will it have this effect and over what timescale?</p> <p>Where possible/relevant please include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes over and above business as usual • Evidence or measurement of effect • Figures for CO₂e • Links to relevant documents 	<p>Explain how you plan to mitigate any negative impacts.</p>	<p>Explain how you plan to improve any positive outcomes as far as possible.</p>
<p>increasing energy efficiencies etc.</p>					<p>reduction in travel emissions.</p>	<p>likelihood of further investment in bus service provision and lower / zero emission vehicles.</p>
	<p>Emissions from construction</p>	<p>X</p>		<p>No impact anticipated</p>		
	<p>Emissions from running of buildings</p>	<p>X</p>		<p>No impact anticipated</p>		
	<p>Other</p>					
<p>Minimise waste: Reduce, reuse, recycle and compost e.g. reducing use of single use plastic</p>		<p>X</p>		<p>No impact anticipated</p>		
<p>Reduce water consumption</p>		<p>X</p>		<p>No impact anticipated</p>		

<p>How will this proposal impact on the environment?</p> <p>N.B. There may be short term negative impact and longer term positive impact. Please include all potential impacts over the lifetime of a project and provide an explanation.</p>	<p>Positive impact (Place a X in the box below where</p>	<p>No impact (Place a X in the box below where</p>	<p>Negative impact (Place a X in the box below where</p>	<p>Explain why will it have this effect and over what timescale?</p> <p>Where possible/relevant please include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes over and above business as usual • Evidence or measurement of effect • Figures for CO₂e • Links to relevant documents 	<p>Explain how you plan to mitigate any negative impacts.</p>	<p>Explain how you plan to improve any positive outcomes as far as possible.</p>
<p>Minimise pollution (including air, land, water, light and noise)</p>		X		<p>No impact anticipated</p>		
<p>Ensure resilience to the effects of climate change e.g. reducing flood risk, mitigating effects of drier, hotter summers</p>		X		<p>No impact anticipated</p>		
<p>Enhance conservation and wildlife</p>		X		<p>No impact anticipated</p>		
<p>Safeguard the distinctive characteristics, features and special qualities of North Yorkshire's landscape</p>		X		<p>No impact anticipated</p>		
<p>Other (please state below)</p>		X		<p>No impact anticipated</p>		

Are there any recognised good practice environmental standards in relation to this proposal? If so, please detail how this proposal meets those standards.

N/A

Summary Summarise the findings of your impact assessment, including impacts, the recommendation in relation to addressing impacts, including any legal advice, and next steps. This summary should be used as part of the report to the decision maker.

This will allow officers to continue to carry out BAU activities to support local bus services which facilitate travel by more sustainable modes and lower greenhouse gas emissions from transport by reducing private car journeys. Improving local bus services will support a modal shift away from the car with associated positive climate impacts.

Sign off section

This climate change impact assessment was completed by:

Name	Andy Clarke
Job title	Public & Community Transport Manager
Service area	Integrated Passenger Transport
Directorate	Business and Environmental Services
Signature	A Clarke
Completion date	17/3/25

Authorised by relevant Assistant Director (signature): Mike Leah

Date: 26.03.2025