

## **Overview of National Express West Midlands Dudley area consultation and TfWM Dudley Network Development Plan**

### **National Express West Midlands Dudley area consultation**

National Express (NXWM) have launched a consultation asking for feedback on bus routes in the Dudley area. They want to find out what customers and possible new users of the current network like - and don't like - and how they can make improvements.

NXWM have reported that the bus network in Dudley hasn't been reviewed for ten years and believe there may be some changes required on certain routes.

Also they want to make the routes into a holistic local network that's easier to understand, especially for people who don't use the bus at the moment.

It has been stressed all options for changes to the network are open to proposal, discussion and negotiation. The consultation is on their website [www.nxbus.co.uk](http://www.nxbus.co.uk) and will also be available at local libraries, Travelshops, and publicised in the local media.

### **Overview of Dudley Network Development Plan**

The West Midlands Bus Alliance is committed to delivering Network Development Plans (NDP) for the region; in order to ensure that the bus network continues to meet local needs and is able to adapt to future growth opportunities and challenges.

TfWM are working closely with Dudley council officers, NXWM and other bus operators on the emerging Dudley NDP.

The outcome of NXWM's consultation will help inform the development of the Dudley NDP and also facilitate co-ordinated network changes which could include the wider subsidised network and non-NXWM commercial services.

In turn it is anticipated that the NDP development will help inform NXWM's network changes specifically in relation to the following sections of the Dudley NDP;

- the strategic fit with local and regional development, growth, transport and air quality policies and plans including identification of local pro-bus policies and measures
- analysis of the existing bus network, infrastructure, interchanges and services
- assessment of the current highway performance and understanding of existing and future travel patterns
- a delivery plan covering improvements to be made to the bus network

Development work for the Dudley NDP has commenced with an estimated completion date of Spring 2018.

### **Further information**

**A briefing to provide more information has been arranged at 5:00pm on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October, this is prior to the full council meeting. Officers from NXWM and TfWM will present a short presentation and all Councillors are welcome to attend.**

**TfWM officer contact**

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