

Mr L Murphy
Chairman, Great Wyrley & Cheslyn Hay Community Group

Sent by email only: request-679741-c942bded@whatdotheyknow.com

Our ref: FOI749

28 September 2021

Dear Mr Murphy

We write further to your request for information, our apologies for the delay in returning to you. Please find our response below:

I have been informed that the authority has applied for £879,836 from the £31m funding for supported bus services in 2020/21.

(1) At the time of this FOI request has the funding been approved?

Transport for West Midlands have received the allocation of £879,836 from the Department of Transport (DfT) as part of the Better Deal for Bus Users funding. This money was received in April 2020.

(2) What specific bus routes or corridors will be subsidised in the West Midlands?

In March 2020 the DfT confirmed that the allocation of funding could be used to support the provision of local services affected by the covid-19 pandemic as an alternative to providing the improvements detailed in the statement of intent. Given the circumstances, that will potentially affect the viability of some services in the West Midlands, we have not progressed with any of the initial proposals so we can better understand the longer term implications of the pandemic and provide targeted support / subsidy once this is better understood.

The exception to this is the enhancement of service 223 which operates between Dudley and Bilston. This service previously operated every hour, using the grant allocation we have uplifted this to a bus every 30 minutes. Initially this was to provide additional capacity to maintain social distancing but has been welcomed by passengers and stakeholders.

(3) Are there any cross border services with Staffordshire that will be subsidised, if so which?

NO

(4) When will operators be able to start new supported services or journeys?

The enhanced service 223 has already commenced.

As stated above we are waiting for a clearer picture of the wider sustainability of services across the network before determining which services we will support using the grant allocation.

You have the right to ask us to review of this decision. If you intend to seek a review you should make a request for a review within 40 working days of receipt of this letter, and we will provide our review within 20 working days of receipt

If, following review, you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request you have the right under section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision.

Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our review procedure. You can contact the information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

Information Governance
West Midlands Combined Authority

Website: www.wmca.org.uk