

Scrutiny Board :	Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board
Report Title	Bus Franchising Update
Date of Meeting	Wednesday, 18 March 2026
Lead Officer	Nattie Penrose – Director of Bus Reform Transport for West Midlands
Wards Affected	All wards
Identify exempt information and exemption category	Not applicable
Appendices (if any)	1. Appendix 1 - Bus Reform Update

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board, during their work programming event in June 2025, identified that good transport links encourage mobility within and outside of the borough. A reliable and efficient bus network would allow individuals to seek work opportunities, visit businesses and attend medical appointments faster and cheaper.
- 1.2 Officers from Transport for West Midlands have been invited to provide an update on bus franchising and how this will impact Sandwell.

2. Recommendation

That the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board:-

- 2.1 Considers and provides feedback on the on-going Bus Franchising proposals.

3. Background and Context

- 3.1 Please see information attached at Appendix 1.