

Motion Title: Support the introduction of Bus Franchising in the West Midlands

Proposer: Councillor Hackett

Seconder: Councillor Millard

Council notes that bus passengers in Sandwell are rightly frustrated with many bus services operated by various providers across Sandwell, with many services proving to be unreliable.

Council further notes that trust in local transport is at an all-time low with passenger numbers and satisfaction falling and prices rising.

Council welcomes the opportunity bus franchising in the West Midlands presents, which could see the West Midlands Combined Authority given powers to decide routes, fares, frequency, hours and days of operation providing greater control over our bus services for communities right across Sandwell and the wider West Midlands.

Council therefore calls on the Combined Authority Mayor or any successor to commit to exploring all options for bringing in bus franchising across the whole West Midlands region to ensure our bus services are run in the interests of passengers and not solely based on profit.