TRANSPORT ACT 2000

THE SOUTH YORKSHIRE

FRANCHISING SCHEME FOR BUSES 2025

MADE 20th MARCH 2025
AND AS VARIED UNDER S123M AND S123MA OF THE TRANSPORT ACT 2000 ON [ ] 2026

ARRANGEMENT OF THE SCHEME

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WHEREAS:

A. The Transport Act 2000 (as amended) ("**2000 Act**") makes provision for a franchising authority to make a franchising scheme covering the whole or any part of its area. The South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority ("**SYMCA**") is a franchising authority as defined in the 2000 Act.

B. SYMCA gave notice of its intention to prepare an assessment of a proposed scheme in accordance with sections 123B and section 123C(4) of the 2000 Act on 22 March 2022. Having complied with the process as set out in the Act, SYMCA may determine to make the scheme in accordance with sections 123G and 123H of the 2000 Act.

NOW, therefore, the Mayor on behalf of SYMCA, in exercising of the powers conferred by sections 123G and 123H of the 2000 Act, and of all other enabling powers, hereby **MAKES THE FOLLOWING FRANCHISING SCHEME** (the "**Scheme**"):

1. CITATION AND COMMENCMENT

1.1 This Scheme may be cited as the South Yorkshire Franchising Scheme for Buses 2025 and is made on 20th March 2025.

1.2 This Scheme shall come into operation on 5th September 2027 and shall remain in operation thereafter unless varied or revoked in accordance with the 2000 Act.

2. INTERPRETATION

2.1 In this Scheme.

(a) "**1985 Act**" means the Transport Act 1985;

(b) "**2000 Act**" has the meaning given to it in Recital A;

(c) "**Commencement Date**" has the meaning ascribed to it in article 1.2;

(d) **"Districts"** means the metropolitan boroughs of Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield as shown for illustratory purposes on the South Yorkshire Franchising Scheme Map;

(e) "**EP Plan**" means the South Yorkshire Enhanced Partnership Plan made on 1 April 2022 by SYMCA, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Doncaster Borough Council, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council and Sheffield City Council pursuant to section 138A of the 2000 Act;

(f) "**EP Schemes**" means each enhanced partnership scheme which is associated with the EP Plan and made by SYMCA, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Doncaster Borough Council, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council and Sheffield City Council pursuant to section 138A of the 2000 Act including the South Yorkshire Enhanced Partnership Scheme for Buses made on 1 April 2022 and **EP Scheme** shall be construed accordingly;

(g) "**Franchising Scheme Area**" means the SYMCA Area;

(h) "**Large Franchise Contract**" means a Local Service Contract which has a Peak Vehicle Requirement of no less than 50 vehicles;

(i) "**Local Service Contract**" has the same meaning as in section 123A(5) of the 2000 Act;

(j) "**Local Service**" has the same meaning as in section 2 of the 1985 Act;

(k) "**Operator**" means a person operating a Local Service, and references to an Operator shall be construed in accordance with section 137(7) of the 1985 Act;

(l) "**South Yorkshire Franchising Scheme Map**" means the map so described which is deposited at SYMCA's office at 11, Broad Street

West, Sheffield S1 2BQ[1] (A smaller scale version of this plan is at Annex 3 for the purposes solely of illustration);

[1] The map is available for inspection there and online at www.southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk/bus-reform

(m) "**SYMCA**" means the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority; and

(n) "**SYMCA Area**" means the area consisting of the areas of the metropolitan district councils for the local government areas of Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield.

2.2 Any reference to any enactment, order, regulation, or other similar instrument in this Scheme shall be construed as a reference to the enactment, order, regulation, or instrument as amended, replaced, consolidated, or re-enacted and shall include any subordinate legislation made under the relevant enactment, order regulation or similar instrument and any legally binding codes of practice made thereunder whether before or after the date of this Scheme.

3. THE FRANCHISING SCHEME AREA

3.1 The SYMCA Area is hereby designated as the area to which the Scheme relates as shown on the South Yorkshire Franchising Scheme Map[2].

4. ENTRY INTO LOCAL SERVICE CONTRACTS

4.1 The date on which a Local Service Contract to provide a Local Service may first be entered into shall be 4 January 2027[3].

4.2 The minimum period that is to expire between the date set out in article 4.1 and the provision of a Local Service under a Local Service Contract shall be a period of 8 months.[4]

4.3 The date on which a Local Service may first be provided under a Local Service Contract shall be 5th September 2027.

[2] Section S123H(2)(a)
[3] Section 123H(2)(c)
[4] Section 123H(2)(d)

5. SERVICES UNDER LOCAL SERVICE CONTRACTS

5.1 Subject to article 6, the Local Services that are appropriate, and are intended, to be provided under Local Service Contracts are those specified in Annex 1 to this Scheme[5].

5.2 Notwithstanding the provisions of clause 5.1 above, where the origin or destination of a Local Service specified in Annex 1 is outside of the Franchising Scheme Area that element of the service will not be subject to the Scheme and, in such instances, SYMCA will use its reasonable endeavours to secure the operation of such service in a different manner to the extent possible. For example:-

(a) whilst the service remains to be operated from a location outside of the Franchising Scheme Area, such services may be operated under a service permit whilst operating in the Franchising Scheme Area; and

(b) for services that are operated from within the Franchising Scheme Area, such elements of the service that fall outside of the Franchising Scheme Area will not be subject to the Scheme, but rather such elements of the service will, to the extent contracted for by SYMCA, be secured as a subsidised service under powers in the Transport Act 1985.

6. EXCEPTIONS FROM THE SCHEME

6.1 The Local Services excepted from regulation arising because of the Scheme are those listed in Annex 2.

7. SCHEME FACILITIES

7.1 The additional facilities that the SYMCA consider appropriate to provide in the SYMCA Area are:

(a) such depots as may facilitate the letting of the Large Franchise Contracts.

[5] Section 123H(2)(b)

(b) buses, zero emission or internal combustion engine, as may facilitate the letting of the Local Service Contracts.

8. PLAN FOR CONSULTING ON OPERATION OF THE SCHEME

8.1 The SYMCA will consult such organisations as appear to the SYMCA to be representative of users of Local Services (including for the avoidance of doubt, Local Service Contracts). This will include Transport Focus or any successor organisation. It may consult other organisations and persons, as the SYMCA thinks fit.

8.2 The purpose of any consultation undertaken in accordance with this article 8 is to seek the views of the users of Local Services on how well the Scheme is working[6]. SYMCA will consult in accordance with this article 8 within a period of 24 months from the date set out in article 4.3 and at such other times periodically as the SYMCA considers appropriate.

8.3 Any consultations carried out in accordance with this article 8 shall last for such period of time as the SYMCA thinks fit so as to ensure that those organisations and persons described in article 8.1 have sufficient time to respond.

8.4 The SYMCA will make available to the public its response to any consultation carried out in accordance with this article 8.

9. VARIATION AND REVOCATION OF THE ENHANCED PARTNERSHIP

9.1 Immediately after the dates on which subsections (2) and (3) of section 123J of the 2000 Act apply to the Franchising Scheme Area, the EP Plan and each EP Scheme shall be revoked in respect of the Franchising Scheme Area[7].

[6] Section 123(A)(9)
[7] Section 123(H)(6)(b)

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THE MAYOR OF SOUTH YORKSHIRE MAYORAL COMBINED AUTHORITY
ANNEXES TO THE SCHEME

ANNEX 1: SERVICES INCLUDED - ARTICLE 5

1. The Local Services intended to be provided under Local Service Contracts are services forming a network within the Districts of Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield connecting communities with town and city centres, employment areas, schools and colleges, healthcare facilities, retail and other community facilities, and bus, tram and rail interchange facilities.

2. The services under paragraph 1 comprise:

(a) principal network services provided under any Large Franchise Contract;

(b) local services providing community, feeder and other local connections, including services suitable for operation by smaller vehicles; and

(c) services principally serving schools, colleges and other educational establishments, to the extent that such services constitute Local Services.

3. In accordance with article 5.2, the services specified in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Annex 1 include those parts of cross-boundary Local Services that originate from and are operated within the Franchising Scheme Area. The operation of any part of a cross-boundary service outside the Franchising Scheme Area (irrespective of whether that service originated from within or outside of the Franchising Scheme Area) shall be subject to article 5.2.

4. For the avoidance of doubt, Local Services which are not provided under a Local Service Contract may operate under a Service Permit granted by SYMCA pursuant to section 123P of the 2000 Act.

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ANNEX 2: EXCEPTED SERVICES - ARTICLE 6

1. The following Local Services shall be excepted from regulation arising because of the Scheme (as further set out below, as applicable):

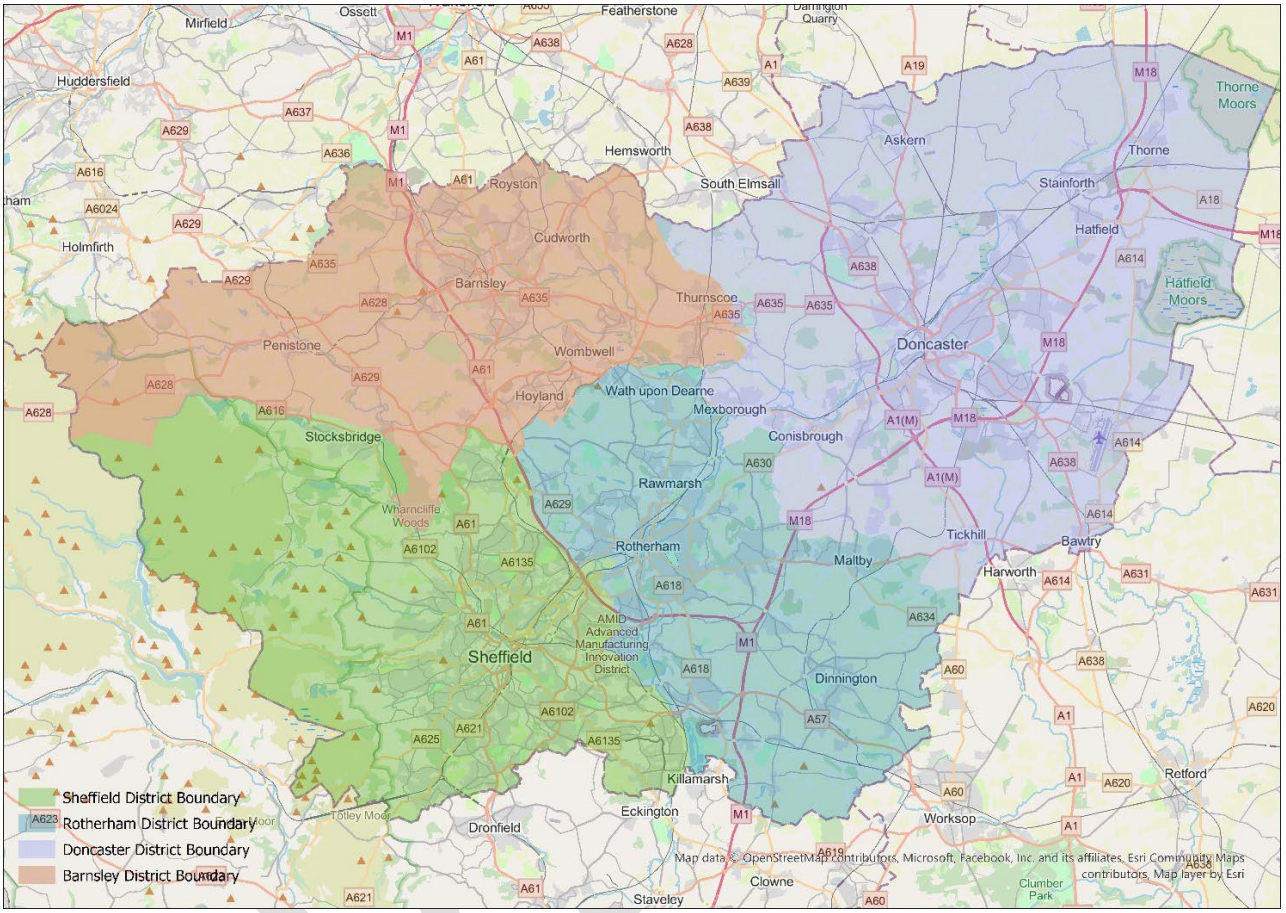
    1.1 Shuttle/Feeder services in the event of road closures; and

    1.2 Non regular special events; and

    1.3 Scheduled long distance coach services.

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ANNEX 3: SOUTH YORKSHIRE FRANCHISING SCHEME MAP



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