

SYMCA update

- **Bus network update**
- **Bus Franchising update**
- **Demand Responsive Travel update**

Andrew Simpson

Assistant Director of Transport Projects

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Bus Network Update

Recent Changes to the network

- Service **114** (first bus) **Rotherham – Stag** has had additional journeys introduced during the evening on Mondays to Saturdays and during the daytime and evening on Sundays, starting Sunday 12 April 2026.
- Service **207** (first bus) **Sheffield – Brinsworth – Rotherham** has been rerouted in Attercliffe on journeys towards Sheffield due to a one-way temporary road closure of Attercliffe Road, starting Monday 12 January 2026 and expected to be until Monday 12 October 2026.
- Service **X3** (first bus) **Sheffield – Rotherham – Doncaster** has been rerouted in Attercliffe on journeys towards Sheffield due to a one-way temporary road closure of Attercliffe Road, starting Monday 12 January 2026 and expected to be until Monday 12 October 2026.
- Service **X20** (Globe) **Barnsley – Doncaster** has been rerouted to serve Wath upon Dearne, with changes to the times, starting Monday 13 April 2026.

Bus Network Update

Forthcoming changes in Rotherham:

- Services **26** and **26A** (TM Travel) **Crystal Peaks – Thorpe Salvin** will have minor changes to the times to assist with punctuality, starting Monday 27 July 2026.
- Service **70A** (TM Travel) **Sheffield – Woodhouse – Meadowhall** will be run by **first bus** instead of TM Travel, starting Sunday 26 July 2026.
- Service **71** (TM Travel) **Sheffield – Harthill** will have additional journeys introduced during the early morning and during the evening, daily, from Sunday 26 July 2026.
- Service **226** (Stagecoach) **Barnsley – Thurnscoe** will have minor changes to the times, from Saturday 25 July 2026.

School bus service changes:

- Service **620** (Stagecoach) **Maltby – Dinnington** (Dinnington High School) will have minor changes to the times from Tuesday 1 September 2026.
- Service **664** (L. L. Travel) **Low Valley – Wath upon Dearne** (St Pius X High School) will be run by **Wilfreda Beehive** instead of L. L. Travel, starting Tuesday 1 September 2026.

Bus Network Update

SYMCA have secured agreements to stabilise the network until Sept 2027.

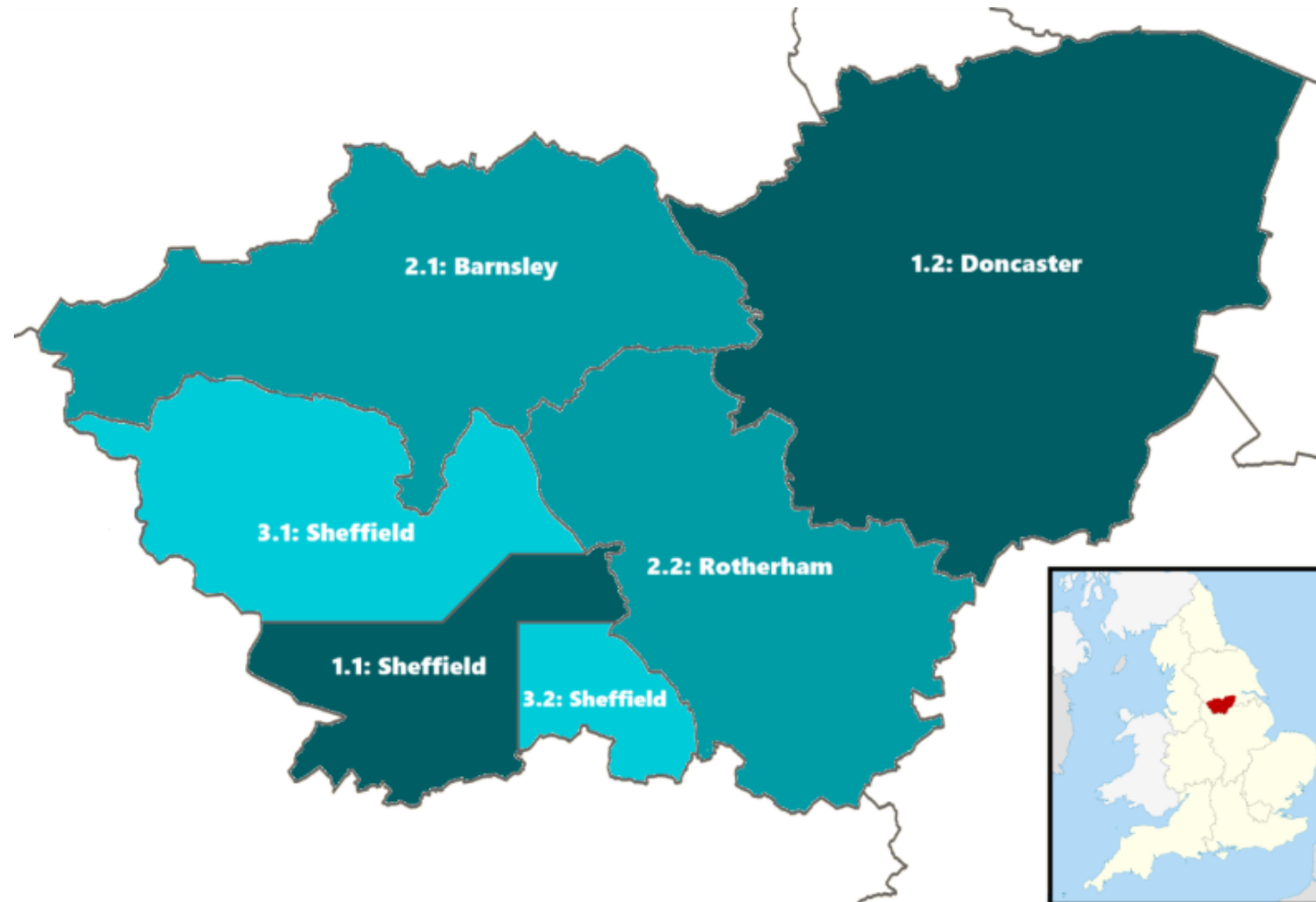
Free School MiCard Travel Update

- 18,514 of young people have a MiCard - 110% of the target uptake
- Over 1.7m journeys have been made with a Barnsley MiCard
- 64% of these journeys are being undertaken by residents from three of Barnsley's most deprived deciles.
- Total child travel in Barnsley is up 63% compared to the same period last year.
- 17-year-olds make up the largest age group of those with a MiCard, reaching 2,723.

Sheffield are considering going live in 2027

Bus Franchising Update

Bus Franchising rollout 2027-2029



Our areas of focus:

main workstreams



Procurement timeline



Phase 1 operational commencement date
5 September 2027



Where we are today

- ✓ The People's Network is now launched, our new transport brand built around the communities we serve.
- ✓ All six bus depots now in public ownership
- ✓ Secured additional £33.4m of government funding that will put 187 electric buses on South Yorkshire's roads.
- ✓ The search is on: procurement to identify the operators who will run services, and the manufacturers who will build the fleet, is live.

Day One Network:

When buses come back under public control, the network will stay broadly the same at first. We'll make **targeted improvements** to some routes and timetables, but we're not redesigning the whole network.

Day 1 enhancements provide:

- ✓ tangible improvements passengers will notice immediately, without destabilising the network.
- ✓ a clear focus on more buses running on time.
- ✓ a more efficient and effective use of resources and assets
- ✓ deliverable change that avoids over-promising and builds confidence in franchising

Approach to development:

- ü engagement with Local Authorities to understand aspirations and priorities
- ü responding to known local priorities and customer feedback.
- ü independent assessment of the network
- ü reviewed the known gaps and opportunities for efficiency improvements in the network
- ü Asking for public feedback until 17th May

What this means for Rotherham – phase two from 2028*

- **Rotherham services being franchised in 2027 as part of Olive Grove and Leger Way**

Service	Origin	Destination	Allocation	Current Depot	Current Operator
137/137A	Sheffield city centre	Rotherham	1.1: Olive Grove	Rawmarsh	Stagecoach Yorkshire
70/70A	Sheffield city centre	Rotherham	1.1: Olive Grove	Halfway	TM Travel
71/71A	Sheffield city centre	Harthill	1.1: Olive Grove	Halfway	TM Travel
207	Sheffield city centre	Rotherham	1.1: Olive Grove	Olive Grove	First South Yorkshire
626	Wales High School	Crystal Peaks	1.1: Olive Grove	Halfway	TM Travel
X1/X2	Sheffield city centre	Maltby	1.1: Olive Grove	Olive Grove / Leger Way	First South Yorkshire
X3	Sheffield city centre	Doncaster city centre	1.2: Leger Way	Leger Way	First South Yorkshire
X5	Sheffield city centre	Dinnington / Doncaster	1.1: Olive Grove	Olive Grove	First South Yorkshire
X7	Sheffield city centre	Maltby	1.1: Olive Grove	Halfway	TM Travel
X11	Sheffield city centre	Doncaster	1.1: Olive Grove	Olive Grove / Leger Way	First South Yorkshire
X20	Doncaster city centre	Barnsley	1.2: Leger Way	Carlton	Globe Holidays

- Other local bus services will be Phase 2 (Autumn 2028). School services, will mainly be 2029 but a small number in earlier years.

What this means for Rotherham – phase two from 2028

- ***Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC), Sheffield Business Park & surrounding employment areas from 2027**
 - Doubling service frequency from Sheffield to AMRC
 - 3 buses per hour compared to 2 buses per hour between Rotherham and AMRC, and extending a service to cover more areas,
 - A new direct link between Rotherham and Sheffield Business Park
 - Doubling service frequency from Meadowhall to AMRC
 - Doncaster-iPort-Maltby-Hellaby-Rotherham-AMP-Sheffield Corridor (Service X11) to be made a permanent service, with additional journeys, including a Sunday service.
- **Crystal Peaks and Meadowhall**
 - Improving access to amenities with reinstated service links
- **Hospital links**
 - Improved co-ordination of services and looking at options to achieve a 10-minute service to/from the hospital
- **Equality of service**
 - Fixing gaps in service and span of operation caused with the closure of Midland Road.
 - Rotherham communities are not impacted due to the legacy decision made by First
- **Electrification**
 - Prioritising RMBC's AQMA areas and recommending X3 (Fitzwilliam Road) is a priority for electrification

Next steps

- Electrification of depots will begin later this year, getting ready for our new electric buses.
- Finalising operator procurement – this is the operators who will run services for phase 1, Doncaster and Sheffield. The process will take until the end of 2026 to complete with an announcement early in 2027.
- Announcement of manufacturer(s) who will build the buses, will be made later this summer
- Engagement survey now live to gather feedback on proposed principles for the network to check that we're focussing on the right priorities for day one. Survey open until 17th May 2026.

Demand Responsive Travel (DRT) update

- RMBC project with SYMCA developing a 12-month Pilot of a Demand Responsive Transport service focused on South Rotherham
- Funded through SYMCA's Transport Innovation Fund (TIF) to provide short term support to existing services
- The Service will support connections for
 - Rotherham Hospital and access to the Town Centre
 - Shopping employment destinations, Dinnington, Meadowhall, Crystal Peaks
 - Local Rail and Tram interchanges
- Where other services can support travel expectations customers will be directed to them
- DRT will be offered where no other Public Transport options are available
- Pick up and drop offs will operate with physical and virtual stops
- The contracted booking agent is VIA a leading Operator of demand responsive transport. They will provide day to day operations routing and scheduling technology, a customer Smartphone App and a staffed call centre.
- Start date is July 2026