

# SYMCA Bus Franchising Assessment Update

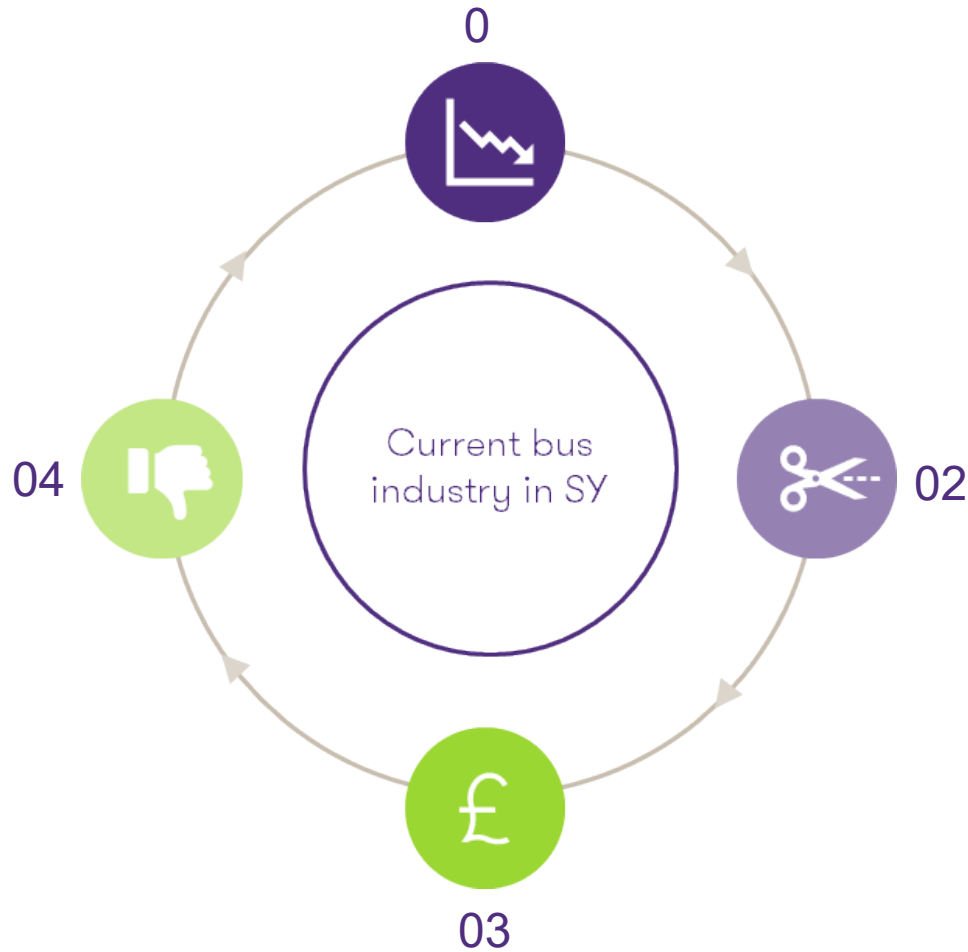
Audit, Standards & Risk Committee  
20 September 2023

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Prepared by Pat Beijer, Executive Director of Transport



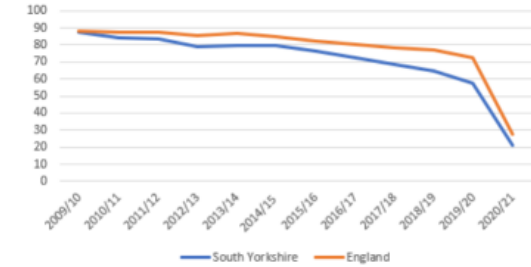
**Historic Trend:** The existing arrangements in the SY bus industry have contributed to a vicious cycle of a decline in patronage, cuts in services and a lack of investment.



**01 Decline in Patronage**

Bus usage has declined at a faster rate in SY than other comparable city regions and in England as a whole.

A decline in patronage contributes to lower profitability for bus operators which is already lower than in comparable markets.



Passenger journeys per head of population, South Yorkshire and England

**02 Cuts in services, performance and standards**

Consequently, bus operators cut bus services, reduce performance standards and / or do not invest in its services, e.g. new fleet.

As a result of a lack of investment, **the average fleet age in SY is 11.5 years old.**



Percentage of bus services operated (reliability)

**03 Further SYMCA subsidy or network decline**

SYMCA is then confronted with either subsidising tendered services or letting the network decline.

In 2006-7, the network mileage was 43 million miles. By 2018-19, it had shrunk to only 32 million miles – a decline of 32%.

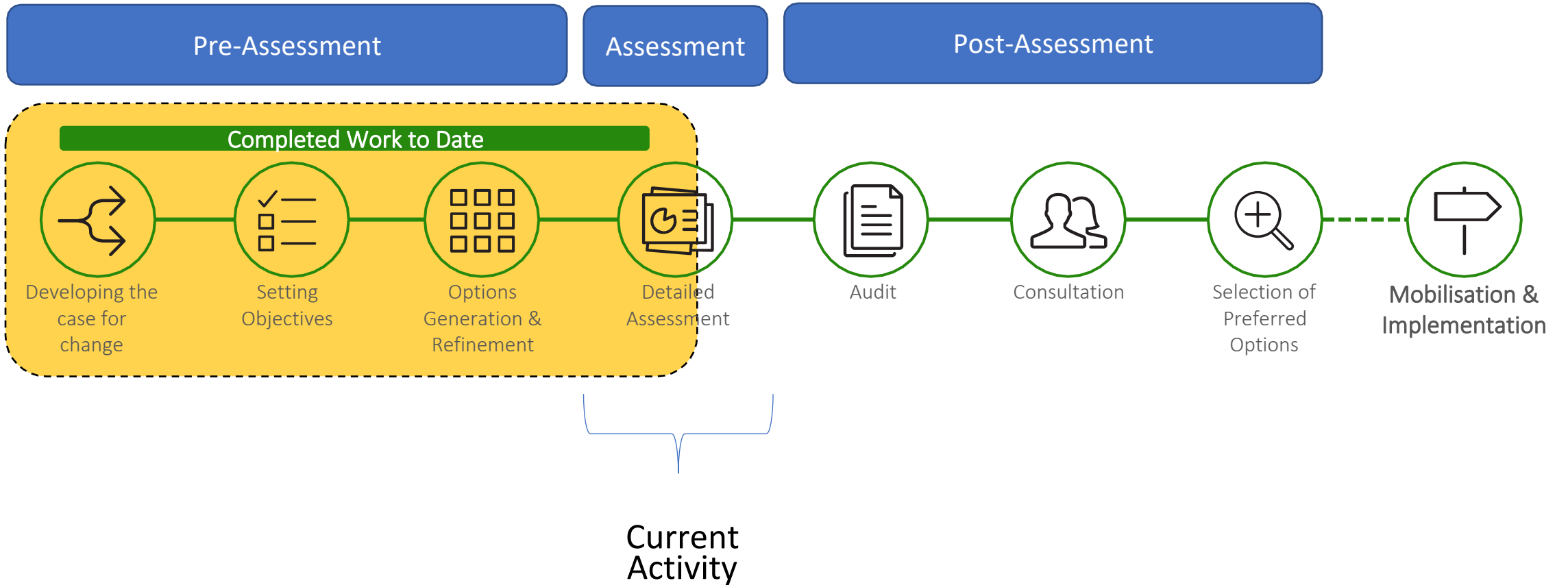


Total Network Mileage of commercial and tendered services in SY

**04 Poor performance and reduced coverage makes buses less attractive to passengers.**

Existing passengers feel they cannot depend on the network and opt to use other modes.



## Status & Refresh of the Process



# SYMCA Bus Franchising Assessment - Update

- The Strategic Case: Is there compelling case for change?
- Financial Case: Are the options affordable?
- Economic Case: Do the options provide value for money?
- Commercial Case: What is the risk transfer?
- Management Case: What resources are needed to deliver?

# Schemes being Assessed

	Scheme One EP	Scheme Two Franchise A	Scheme Three Franchise B	Scheme Four Franchise C	Scheme Five Franchise D
Geography	South Yorkshire				
Service Levels	Post July 2023 without government funding (Worst Case) / Post October 2022				
 Depots	Operator Owned (except Doncaster)	Operator Owned (except Doncaster)	<b>SYMCA Owned</b>	Operator Owned (except Doncaster)	<b>SYMCA Owned</b>
 Vehicles	Operator Owned	Operator Owned	<b>SYMCA Owned</b>	<b>SYMCA Owned</b>	Operator Owned
SMEs	No change	No Change / X% of network			

Thank you

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SOUTH YORKSHIRE  
**SYMCA**



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