

SYMCA Bus Franchising Assessment Update

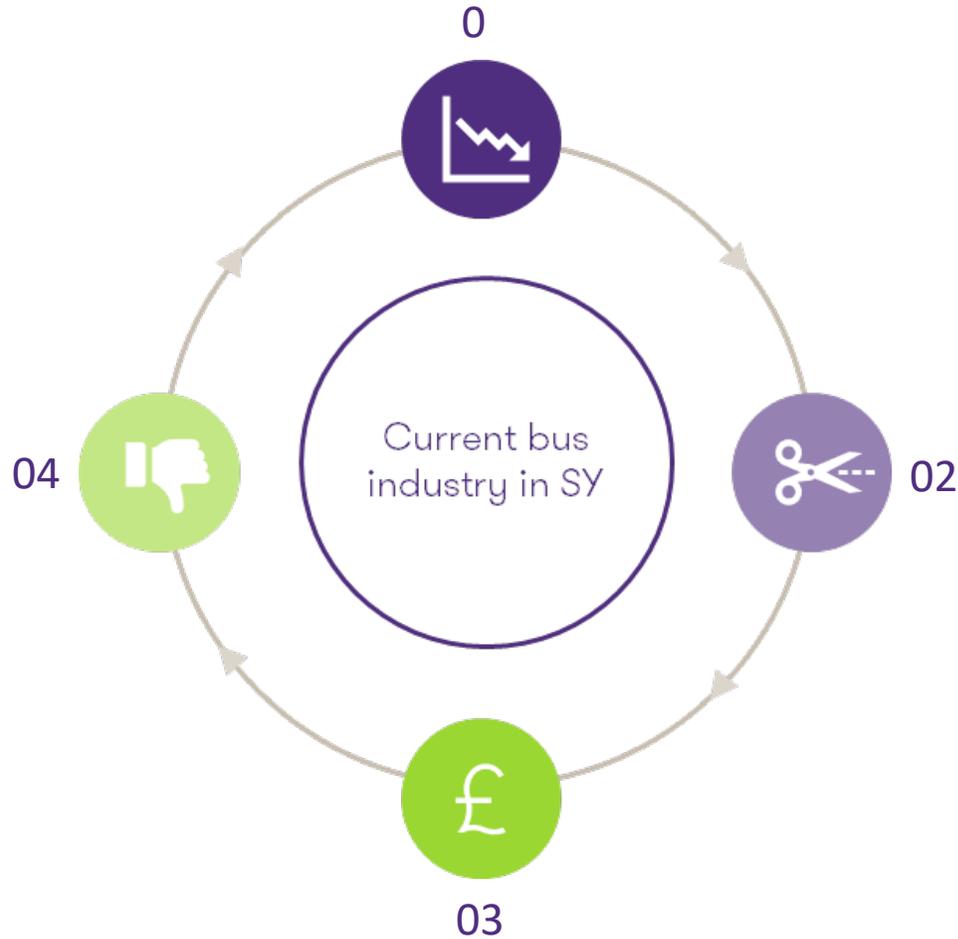
Overview & Scrutiny Committee

21 September 2023

Pat Beijer



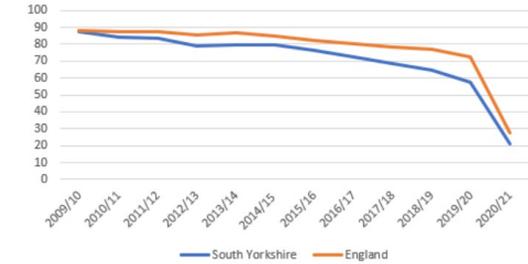
Historic Trend: The existing arrangements in the SY bus industry have contributed to a vicious cycle of a decline in patronage, cuts in services and a lack of investment.



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.**

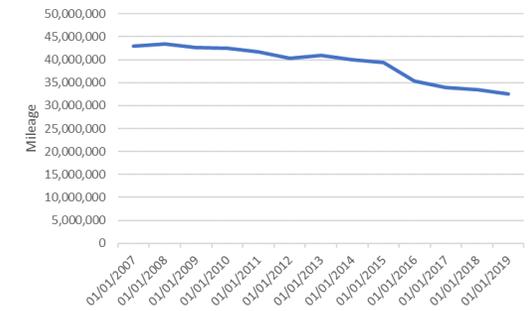


Percentage of bus services operated (reliability)

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%.

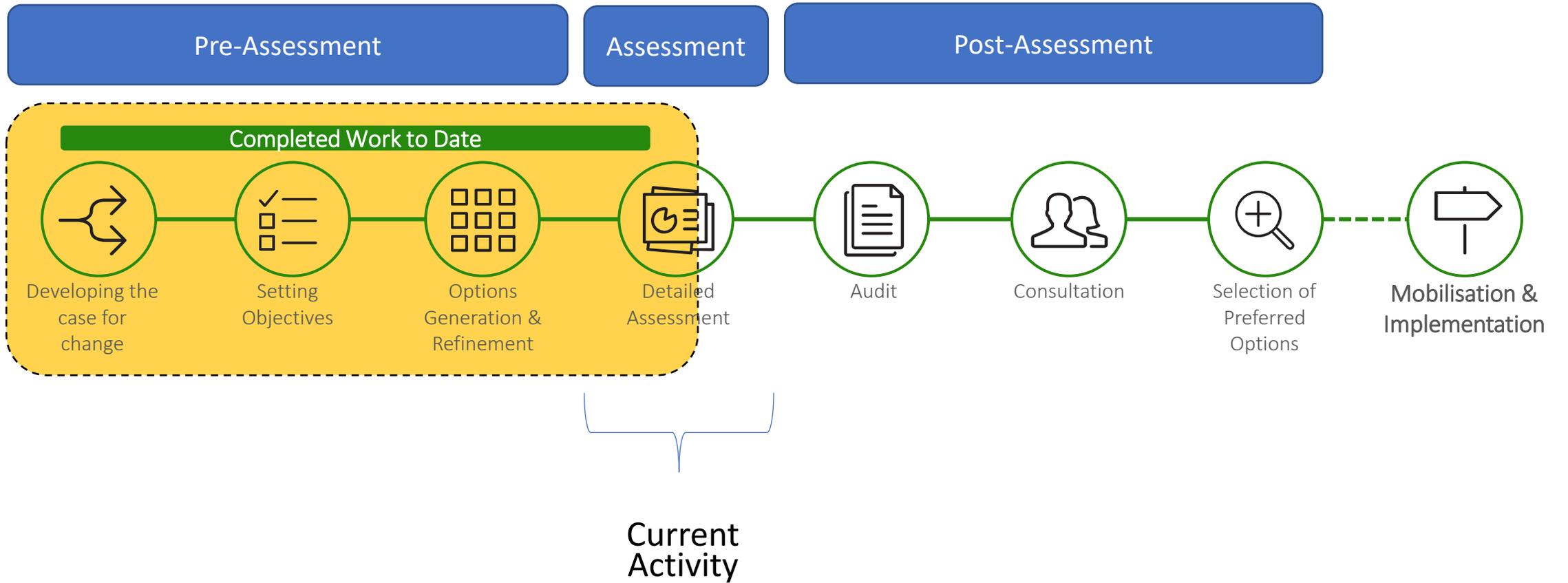


Total Network Mileage of commercial and tendered services in SY

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)	SYMCA Owned	Operator Owned (except Doncaster)	SYMCA Owned
 Vehicles	Operator Owned	Operator Owned	SYMCA Owned	SYMCA Owned	Operator Owned
SMEs	No change	No Change / X% of network			

Thank you

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SOUTH YORKSHIRE
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