

Annex 5 – Proposal to address local bus idling

- 1) Local bus operators expressed their concern at the June meeting of the York Quality Bus Partnership at the adoption of a blanket approach to address local bus idling. The operators stated:
 - i) Different vehicle types / emissions levels require different approaches. Whilst modern Euro IV / V / VI vehicles will cut out automatically after a certain time, older vehicles are not designed in this fashion and require manual intervention to stop the engines;
 - ii) For the emissions solution on Euro VI buses to function as designed, the engines need to be working within a particular operating temperature range. Turning the engine off regularly could actually serve to increase overall emissions from these vehicles;
 - iii) Passenger perception of the quality of the service offered should be considered. On a cold, wet day, when a bus has to wait at a stop for several minutes, passengers often complain if the engine (and therefore heating and potentially lighting) is switched off. There are also potentially associated difficulties with battery drainage if the engines are switched on and off regularly in cold weather conditions;
 - iv) For vehicles operating long distance services, where their engineering base can be anything up to 40 miles away from York, a breakdown or engine failure can lead to significant service disruption for a significant number of passengers. The subsequent breakdown can also result in a bus stop / stand being blocked while it is recovered.

- 2) Notwithstanding the above, bus operators recognise the need to further promote the environmental benefits of local bus services. To this end, they have agreed to work with CYC through the Quality Bus Partnership to put in place measures to address bus idling, particularly in the city centre. The Quality Bus Partnership is currently preparing a range of measures which will be introduced in early 2019. These include:
 - i) Plates to be attached to bus stops in the city centre to remind drivers to switch off their engines if they are waiting for longer than 2 minutes;
 - ii) Information on operators' and Council websites and on at-stop real time information screens to explain the measures being undertaken to the public.