

Title of meeting: Traffic & Transportation Cabinet Member Decision Meeting

Date of meeting: 8th December 2022

Subject: Implementation of Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme for bus services in Portsmouth

Report by: Tristan Samuels, Director Regeneration

Report author: Peter Shelley, Transport Development Manager

Wards affected: All

Key decision: Yes

Full Council decision: No

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 This report seeks approval for the implementation of the Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme for bus services in Portsmouth as approved by Cabinet on 21 June 2022 and following statutory consultation.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Cabinet Member for Traffic and Transportation:

- 2.1 **Notes the contents of this report;**
- 2.2 **Notes that the Department for Transport require additional text in the Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme;**
- 2.3 **Approves the Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme as attached;**
- 2.4 **Approves the implantation of the Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme from 8 December 2022.**

3. Background

- 3.1 On 4 April 2022, Portsmouth City Council was advised that it had been offered an indicative funding allocation of up to £48,349,526 towards its Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP). Funding confirmation is conditional on the submission and implementation of a transformational Enhanced Partnership (EP). On 21 June, Cabinet approved submission of the EP plan and EP scheme by 30 June

2022. The Department for Transport required some additional text for clarification and an explicit commitment from bus operators to reinvest savings locally. With this agreement, funding has been approved once the EP is implemented. As required, the EP was sent to statutory consultees for comment and only positive responses were received. The final stage in the process is to 'make' the EP by approving its implementation. Once this is complete, funding can be released.

4. Consultation and Engagement

4.1 Portsmouth City Council conducted its own research into the views of members of the public and businesses regarding the bus network within Portsmouth, specifically:

- To understand the strengths and weaknesses of local bus travel
- Identify the key areas to prioritise in the long and short-term
- To measure satisfaction levels of bus users.

4.2 These are reflected in the Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme and the related Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) for Portsmouth.

5. Reasons for recommendations

5.1 This is the final stage of the process set out in the National Bus Strategy to deliver improvements to the bus network for Portsmouth residents, and so will create benefits for the overall transport system, including reductions in pollution and help deliver zero carbon, make more efficient use of the finite road space available and support improvements across a range of health, community and economic goals.

6. Integrated Impact Assessment

6.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) was undertaken as part of the development of the BSIP which sets out the strategic aims for the EP and is attached in Appendix B of this report.

7. Legal Implications

7.1 The Council, having complied with the statutory requirements of the Transport Act 2000 and having considered whether it is appropriate to make the Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme, may by exercising its powers under Section 138G of the Transport Act 2000 may make the Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme as proposed.

7.2 Once (and if) the decision to make the Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme is made, the Council must not later than 14 days after the date on which the

Council made the Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme give notice of the making of the Plan and Scheme:

- a) in such manner as it considers appropriate for bringing it to the attention of persons in the area,
- b) to all operators of local services who would, in the opinion of the Council, be affected by the scheme, and
- c) to a traffic commissioner.

7.3 It is understood that there are no immediate financial or legal implications on the Council upon the implementation of the Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme. Appendix A of the Plan and Scheme contains a list of measures currently being provided by the Council as well as a list of measures to be considered by the Enhanced Partnership Board and the Council before implementation. The Council should ensure that any such measures to be agreed as part of the Enhanced Partnership should comply with the relevant legal requirements as may be applicable at the time the decision is made, including but not limited to:

- a) Public Procurement rules;
- b) State Aid; and
- c) Competition rules

8. Director of Finance comments

- 8.1 Once the final stage of the funding is approved by the Department of Transport the £48,349,526 funding will be released to fund the activities within the Bus Services Improvement Plan.
- 8.2 The fund will be closely monitored to ensure the interventions are fully costed, affordable and will not impact on the Council's budgets.

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Signed by:

Appendices:
Appendix A - Portsmouth Enhanced Partnership
Appendix B - Integrated Impact Assessment

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

Title of document	Location
NBS - Enhanced Partnership Cabinet Report 21 June 2022 FINAL.pdf (portsmouth.gov.uk)	

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

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Signed by: