

## RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISION

Monday, 18 October 2021

**Decision No:** (CAB 21/22 32445)

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET
PORTFOLIO AREA:	Cabinet Member for Growth
SUBJECT:	Southampton Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP)
AUTHOR:	Iain Steane

### THE DECISION

- (i) To approve the draft Southampton Bus Service Improvement Plan as required by the National Bus Strategy for publication and submission to the Department for Transport, and delegate authority to the Executive Director Place to make any necessary changes to the draft BSIP before submission, undertake consultation on the Enhanced Partnership, and carry out the annual BSIP review following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Growth.
- (ii) To approve the temporary change to the Southampton Concessionary Fare scheme to offer a local discretionary enhancement under Localism Act 2011 Section 1 to financially support the bus operator commercial offer for the £1 Evening Bus Fare and to extend the current Concessionary Fare eligibility categories in relation to this discretionary element of the Scheme only, this will apply until 31st March 2022.
- (iii) To delegate authority to the Executive Director Place, following consultation with the Cabinet Members for Growth and Finance to determine the mechanism to administer the Evening Fares support under the Concessionary Fares reimbursement provisions.

### REASONS FOR THE DECISION

1. A Bus Service Improvement Plan is required under the National Bus Strategy that covers the Local Transport Authority (LTA) area and extending into neighbouring areas. This covers all wards in Southampton and needs to be published by 31st October 2021.
2. A temporary enhancement to the Southampton Concessionary Fares scheme is required to be made by Cabinet to support Southampton's economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.
3. Statutory Consultation is required on any proposed Enhanced Partnership.

## **DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

1. Do Nothing – not recommended; as failure to publish a BSIP as set out in the NBS, would have an impact on the level of funding SCC receives from central Government for bus services (Supported Services), Concessionary Fares Reimbursement, Bus Recovery Grant (BRG) and Bus Services Operator Grant (BSOG) as set out in the National Bus Strategy. It is also an expectation of Government, as set out in the NBS that LTAs, as a minimum, work towards the creation of an EP and development of a BSIP to continue to access future national funding opportunities.
2. £1 Evening Fare – not to provide support to the bus operators commercial offer – not recommended; the changes to the evening parking charges in SCC on and off street parking have impacted on bus patronage in Southampton. Bus operators may reduce evening service frequency and reduce investment in buses in Southampton.

## **OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS CONCERNING THE DECISION**

Cabinet considered and accepted the following recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee meeting, held on 14th October, 2021.

- i) That the Council work with Xelabus to encourage and support them to modernise their fleet.
- ii) That the Cabinet Member gives consideration to the support that the Council can provide to the Southampton Bus User Group to ensure that it is both active and effective.
- iii) That a summary of the consultation findings that informed the Bus Service Improvement Plan is circulated to the Committee.
- iv) That, to encourage feedback, future consultation on plans and proposals relating to bus services is publicised and promoted more widely, across various platforms and channels.
- v) That, to enable oversight, the Committee are provided with an update on the current status of the various bus service improvement schemes included within the Transforming Cities Fund programme.
- vi) That the Committee are provided with outline timescales for the delivery of the key ambitions and actions contained within the Bus Service Improvement Plan.

## **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

None.

**CONFIRMED AS A TRUE RECORD**

We certify that the decision this document records was made in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000 and is a true and accurate record of that decision.

Date: 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2021

Decision Maker:  
The Cabinet

Proper Officer:  
Claire Heather

**SCRUTINY**

Note: This decision will come in to force at the expiry of 5 working days from the date of publication subject to any review under the Council's Scrutiny "Call-In" provisions.

Call-In Period expires on

Date of Call-in *(if applicable) (this suspends implementation)*

Call-in Procedure completed *(if applicable)*

Call-in heard by *(if applicable)*

Results of Call-in *(if applicable)*