

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

DIRECTOR – COMMUNITY

ENHANCED BUS PARTNERSHIP PLAN AND SCHEME

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval of the Enhanced Bus Partnership Plan and Scheme 2023 – 2027.
- 1.2 To seek approval for the bus service improvement measures as agreed at the Enhanced Bus Partnership Board.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme

2.1 The North Lincolnshire Enhanced Bus Partnership Plan is made by both North Lincolnshire Council and key stakeholders including bus operators in accordance with Section 138G(1) of the Transport Act 2000.

2.2 The Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme has been developed to support the delivery of the desired outcomes of the Bus Service Improvement Plan (first published in October 2021):

- Enhanced services and investment on key corridors, with routes that are easier to understand.
- Significant improvements in bus priority
- Integrated local ticketing between operators.
- Fares must be simpler and provide value for money.
- Service patterns must be integrated with other modes e.g. rail
- Clear passenger information with simple numbering system.
- Modern buses and decarbonisation
- Give passengers more of a voice and a say.
- Services which are safe for all.
- More demand-responsive services and ‘socially necessary’ transport i.e. shift patterns, health centres

2.3: An Enhanced Bus Partnership has been developed with the intention to deliver the vision and ambition set out in the NL Bus Service Improvement Plan and oversee the Partnership Plan and scheme for buses and any further Enhanced Partnership schemes made in accordance with the Transport Act 2000. Members of the Enhanced Partnership include Bus and Community Transport Operators as well as North Lincolnshire Council representatives.

2.4 A number of measures have been identified as part of the delivery of the Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme:

- **Additional bus services**
- **Review ongoing maintenance, repair and servicing of bus infrastructure**
- **Section 22 Community Transport in North Lincolnshire**
- **Bus disruption survey**
- **Extensions to existing services**
 - Villages South and East of Brigg including Humberside Airport.
 - Scunthorpe to Barton and Hull
 - Main residential corridors in Scunthorpe
- **Reduced fares for young people**

2.5 Based on the above measures identified in the Enhanced Partnership Scheme, the following proposals related to bus services have been approved at the Enhanced Partnership Board pending final sign-off.

- **Improved Maintenance of Bus Infrastructure** – ongoing development of improved maintenance scheme.
- **Additional services on service 4 Sundays and Bank Holidays** - 9.00am service from Scunthorpe to Brigg and return journey. Extend the 17.45 service to Brigg which currently terminates at 18.02 at Morrisons. Return journey from Brigg at 18.30.
- **Revision of service 10 timetable – Additional services from Burringham Monday to Friday.** 9.30am from Burringham to Scunthorpe. 12.00 return from Scunthorpe to Burringham. 12.30 from Burringham to Scunthorpe.
- **Additional evening services on service 90** – Additional 7pm evening service Monday to Saturday from Scunthorpe to Crowle and return. Additional 9.30pm Friday and Saturday service from Scunthorpe to Crowle and return.
- **New Saturday Service for South and East of Brigg** – The new Saturday service c4 will link into Brigg giving the same frequency of buses in the area on Monday to Friday.
- **Ferry Ward – Additional Bus Services – Service 260**

Extend service 260 to Immingham incorporating South Killingholme, North Killingholme and East Halton.

- **Section 22 Community Transport in North Lincolnshire** - Route 96 is between Barton and Brigg. Route 97 on the Isle of Axholme between Garthorpe and Wroot. Monday to Friday.
- **Additional Sunday service provision on service 350** - A new 7.55am Scunthorpe to Hull service to alleviate the pressure of the 10am service.
- **Bus Disruption Survey** – To be carried out by NLC staff in conjunction with operators and drivers. Working group to be set up.

Additional measures will be added to the Enhanced Partnership Plan over time, using the variation process as set out in Section 5 of the Plan.

3. **OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1 Option 1: To approve the publication of the Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme and to approve the current measures agreed at the Partnership Board to support the delivery of the scheme, identified under 2.5
- 3.2 Option 2: Do not approve the publication of the Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme and do not approve the measures identified within 2.5.

4. **ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

4.1 **Option 1: Approve publication of the Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme.**

The EP Plan and Scheme has been developed in close consultation with the members of the Enhanced Partnership Board and has been subject to the consultation procedure as set out in the guidance related to the develop of the plan and the scheme.

Publication of the EP Plan and Scheme would enable the additional services and improvement measures to be put in place for the benefit of North Lincolnshire residents, visitors and those working in the area.

On publication of the Plan and the Scheme, the remaining funding allocation for 2023/24 could be drawn down from government.

The measures identified under 2.5 have been consulted on with bus operators and agreed as at the Enhanced Partnership Board meetings. This is the preferred option.

- 4.2 **Option 2: Do not approve making and publishing of the Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme and do not approve the measures identified under 2.5.** The scheme would not be published and North Lincolnshire Council would not receive the remaining 50% of BSIP+ funding (Valued at £273,689) from the DfT for 2023-2024. In addition, we would not receive the 2024-2025 funding valued at £547,379.

The additional bus services and bus improvement measures would not be implemented.

This is not the preferred option.

5. **FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)**

- 5.1 Financial: North Lincolnshire Council has been indicatively allocated the following funding for bus service improvement plans:

- LTA BSIP + allocation (2024 to 2025) = £547,379
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- Additional funding allocated for 2024/25 = £965,000
- Total = £2,059,758

6. **OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)**

- 6.1 Enabling resilient and flourishing communities: The Enhanced Partnership will contribute towards one of the key priorities in the council plan. The development of bus services will enable residents to travel sustainably and help contribute towards a clean and green local environment.
- 6.2 Risk: If the Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme is not published, the indicative BSIP+ funding will be at risk. There also remains a risk of not spending the allocation within the timeframe.
- 6.3 Financial risk: There is the possibility that funding does not continue from the DfT in the long term and services may cease if they are not deemed commercially viable by the operator.

7. **OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

- 7.1 An integrated impact assessment is in the process of being undertaken on each of the measures identified.

8. **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

- 8.1 The Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme has followed the Department for Transport guidance in terms of the consultation requirements for 'making' the Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme. This procedure followed is set out below:

3 October 2023 - Draft EP Plan and Scheme was sent to operators of qualifying local services giving 28 days to raise any objections or views on the Plan and Scheme before it was finalised. No objections were raised.

31 October 2023 - As detailed in the guidance from DfT and as part of the statutory consultation process the Plan and Scheme were then forwarded to statutory consultees, giving 2 weeks' notice to raise any objections.

The consultees included neighbouring authorities (North East Lincolnshire Council, Hull County Council, East Riding Council, South Yorkshire Council), Traffic Commissioner, Humberside Police, Transport Focus, Competitions and Marketing Authority and DfT.

Positive feedback was received from Humberside Police and Transport Focus has provided suggestions and recommendation which are currently being worked through and will be taken on board in the reviews of the scheme.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 That the Director – Communities, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, approves the publication of the Enhanced Partnership Plan and the Scheme
- 9.2 That the Director – Communities, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, approve the measures agreed via the Enhanced Partnership Board identified under 2.5.

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report

- Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme – final draft