

Meeting Title:	Southampton Enhanced Partnership Board – Notes of Meeting	
Date:	19th July 2023	
Time:	11:00-13:00	
Location:	Bluestar Depot, Empress Road, Southampton	
<u>Invitees:</u>	<p>Cllr Eamonn Keogh, SCC Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport (Chair); Pete Boustred, SCC Head of Transport & Planning; Wade Holmes, SCC Integrated Transport Service Manager; Andrew Wickham, Go South Coast Managing Director; David-Lee Kong, Go South Coast Operations Director; Andrew Wilson, HCC Strategic Transport Manager (observer); Iain Steane, SCC Transport Policy & Sustainable Travel Manager (non-voting); Emma Baker, SCC Strategic Transport Planner (non-voting)</p>	
<u>Apologies:</u>	<p>Adam Wilkinson, SCC Interim Executive Director Place; Richard Tyldsley, Go South Coast Commercial Manager; James Eustace, First Solent Commercial Manager; Andrew Wilson, HCC Public Transport Manager.</p>	
Ref	Agenda Items	Presenting
1	Welcome & Introductions	Cllr Keogh
2	Minutes & Actions from Previous Meeting	All
	<p>Minutes from EP Board meeting held on 28th April 2023 were agreed. Progress against actions were noted. It was highlighted that First Bus has decided not to attend future EP Board meetings and that Xelabus and South Hampshire Bus Operators Association (SHBOA) would be invited to attend as a representative of a small operator.</p>	
3	Round Table Update	All
	<p>Bluestar gave an update on buildings, staff and the bus fleet, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful driver recruitment, including above minimal levels of drivers. • The location of the new Bluestar depot is leading to reduction in 'lost' mileage and wider dispersion of staff across the South Hampshire area. • Bluestar has invested in 23 new buses which are expected to arrive in Spring 2024. In the interim, they have purchased new fans that will be fitted to the older buses temporarily operating on BS19 in early September and reallocating buses from Bournemouth to Southampton to deal with noise issues on the older buses. • New buses will benefit from a different layout to the existing fleet, updated interior, next stop displays, audio visual equipment and a 	

	<p>dedicated space for pushchairs, which is separate to the wheelchair bay.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bluestar gave an update on service performance following the network expansion and new services that will be launched from July 2023. Also, discussed opportunities to enhance existing services through BSIP+. • Minimal changes to timetable in September. • Southampton is a priority for electrification, but timescales likely to be no earlier than 2025. <p>SCC highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful recruitment of Enhanced Partnership Officer. • The need to undertake monthly monitoring of concessionary fares patronage and requested timely data returns from operators. • Upcoming milestones including Planning Panel for Albion Place and Portswood Broadway consultation – both in August. • Thanks to Bluestar for disseminating information on recent communications to bus users. • Excellent feedback on Bluestar customer service. Bluestar highlighted plans for new drivers to benefit from Customer Care programme. 	
4	EP Working Group Highlights	WH/IS/EB
	<p>a. <i>Highlights from Working Groups</i> – A discussion took place on the DfT BSIP+ announcement in May and emerging proposals as well as feedback from the Accessibility Forum held on 12th July and the ongoing Travel Demand Management programme funded by National Highways.</p> <p>b. <i>Monitoring Local Transport Plan and Bus Service Improvement Plan</i> - SCC gave a presentation on the latest bus data, including traffic flows, bus patronage and bus reliability across the city.</p> <p>c. <i>Bus Priority System</i> – SCC presented data on the bus priority system, including journey time for buses benefits along Northam Road and Western Corridor. Bluestar noted desire to share information with drivers.</p> <p>d. <i>EP Forum</i> - A discussion took place on the proposed approach to the EP Forum planned for November 2023, including attendees. <u>Noted</u> – Bluestar suggested additional attendees for inclusion.</p> <p>e. <i>Comms & Marketing Programme</i> – highlighted upcoming programme, including fare offers, concessionary fares campaign and £2 fare. <u>Noted</u> – continue to organise joint comms, including changes to Government funded fare offer.</p> <p>f. <i>Consultation & Engagement Programme</i> – highlighted upcoming activities, including decision on Albion Place at Planning Panel and Portswood Broadway consultation. <u>Noted</u> – SCC requested continued support from operators with disseminating information to bus users.</p>	
5	EP Motions for Approval	IS/EB
	<i>BSIP programme for next 6 months</i> – work programme presented and <u>agreed</u> , but need to update table with Bluestar activities as communicated at Board.	
6	Date of EP Board Meetings	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 October 2023 • 19 January 2024 	
7	AOB	All
	Bluestar noted its strong objection to proposals for the Christmas Market and potential costs and impacts on operations and bus passengers. SCC highlighted its desire to work in partnership with Bluestar and other operators	

	to address concerns and the need to plan for both scenarios – larger and smaller market.	
	Date of next meeting: 13 October 2023	

ENHANCED PARTNERSHIP ACTION LOG

MEETING DATE	ITEM	RESPONSIBLE	ACTION	STATUS
28/04/2023	3	SCC	To finalise EP Governance as agreed under Item 3 as well as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reviewing the proposal for a Chair 'casting vote' and update the EP Board on the counter proposal to remove the 'casting vote' at the next meeting; and involving GSC in the candidate selection process when recruiting the EP Lead post. 	In-progress
28/04/2023	4	SCC	To implement the motions agreed under Item 4, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> incorporate agenda items on car parking policy and large planning applications into the EP Working Groups; and provide an update on bus priority systems and journey times along key corridors at next EP Board meeting in July. 	Complete
28/04/2023	6	BS	To host next Enhanced Bus Partnership Board meeting in July 2023. SCC to liaise with GSC to organise.	Complete
28/04/2023	AOB	SCC	To prepare a letter to MPs lobbying for continued investment in buses to support national/local priorities. Letter to be sent to MPs at the end of August.	In-progress
19/07/2023	2	SCC	To invite Xelabus or SHBOA to attend future EP Board meetings following notification from First Bus that they no longer wish to attend future meetings.	In-progress
19/07/2023	3	BS	To undertake active communications regarding fleet upgrades.	Not started
19/07/2023	3	SCC/BS	Monitor the impact of expanded fleet and fleet upgrades to evaluate any impacts.	Not started
19/07/2023	3	SCC/BS	To prepare a joint response to question raised at the Accessibility Forum on 12 th July.	In-progress
19/07/2023	3	BS	Review specification of on-board RTI displays and whether equipment could be upgraded to improve accessibility.	In-progress
19/07/2023	3	SCC/BS	To undertake monthly reporting on concessionary fares patronage, which is dependent upon operator data.	Ongoing
19/07/2023	4	SCC/BS	To organise communications on the recovery of the bus market in the city.	Not started
19/07/2023	4	SCC/BS	To organise a separate meeting to discuss the Christmas Market and potential mitigation measures, and to report back to October EP Board meeting.	In-progress