

Meeting Title:	Southampton Enhanced Partnership Board – Notes of Meeting	
Date:	13th October 2023	
Time:	15:00-17:00	
Location:	Executive Boardroom, Civic Centre, Southampton	
Invitees:	<p>Cllr Eamonn Keogh, SCC Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport (Chair); Pete Boustred, SCC Head of Transport & Planning; Wade Holmes, Service Manager, Integrated Transport; Richard Tyldsley, Bluestar General Manager; Richard Soper, South Hampshire Bus Operators Association (SHBOA); Andrew Wickham, Bluestar Managing Director;</p> <p>Andrew Wilson, HCC Strategic Transport Manager (Public Transport) (observer); Iain Steane, SCC Transport Policy & Sustainable Travel Manager (non-voting); Emma Baker, SCC Strategic Transport Planner (non-voting); David Garney, SCC Senior Transport Planner (non-voting).</p>	
Apologies:	Adam Wilkinson, SCC Interim Executive Director Place;	
Ref	Agenda Items	Presenting
1	Welcome & Introductions	Cllr Keogh
2	Minutes & Actions from Previous Meeting	All
	Minutes from EP Board meeting held on 19 th July 2023 were agreed. Progress against actions were noted.	
3	Round Table Update	All
	<p>Bluestar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The schools and colleges returned in September which has provided an operational challenge with the ageing fleet and the availability of spare parts. The company is currently at full bus driver establishment. Road works continue to provide an operational challenge. 24 new ADL Enviro E400MMC buses are on order for delivery in March 2024, and will be allocated to Bluestar services 2 and 19. The former London Optare Olympus ADL Trident buses will replace the ex-Go North-East Volvos until the new E400 buses arrive, which will eliminate the noisy fan issue. Patronage is 20% better year on year and above pre-Covid levels. All Go South Coast companies are performing better than pre-Covid levels. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concessionary passengers are starting to recover which currently sits below fare paying passengers. The slow return of concessionary passengers is an industry wide challenge. <p>SHBOA: (on behalf of smaller operators)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unfortunately, no updates from First Solent and Xelabus. There will be an increase to Solent Go fares from 1 November, which is the first increase in nine years. No marketing campaign is planned; however, information will be available on bus and via websites. There has been good recovery for Solent Go products. <p>Hampshire County Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council finances are challenging, and the authority is looking to save money. A consultation is underway to approve budget adjustments. The BSIP+ settlement has now been approved which equates to £7.1m over the 23/25 budget years, plus the £2m concessionary fares settlement. The authority has £11m in total to spend. The BSIP+ spend will be allocated to a raft of measures including supporting bus services, infrastructure, and real time information. The authority is looking at a ZEBRA 2 bid and are currently consulting with bus operators. Transforming Cities Fund works will be in progress from 16 October, comprising the Rushington Roundabout/Marchwood Bypass which includes a city bound bus lane. Due to be delivered by June 2024. DG has commenced work on the route investment plans for interurban routes that cross from Hampshire into Southampton, commencing with the Bluestar 2, then Bluestar 1,3,4,8,9. <p>Southampton City Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Transforming Cities Fund schemes are progressing well. The Portland Terrace bus gate will open on Monday 13 November. Honeysuckle Road bus gate. Consultation has been carried out and is likely to commence on 13 November. David Garney, the new EP Officer is now in post. The Breeze app now has 10k users. Aspiration for the £2 single fare to be included on the Breeze app, and the team will be in contact with bus operators in due course. 	
4	EP Working Group Highlights	IS/EB
	<p>Highlights from Working Groups: Further information in the slide pack.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Infrastructure works</i>, including bus shelter programme. SCC provided an overview of planned works together with the upgrade of 40 bus shelters. <i>ZEBRA 2 bid proposal</i> - SCC highlighted the opportunity to bid for ZEBRA 2 funding and to resubmit and update Unilink proposals, which has been endorsed by Bluestar. There are concerns over the number of buses that can be charged due to constraints on power supply. If further investigation on the electric supply identify that the UniLink proposal is not feasible then other routes are being considered such as Bluestar 17/18. <i>Summer Group Fare Offer</i> - IS provided feedback that the summer scheme was a success and the next scheme for Christmas is proposed to run from 18 November (paper included). <i>EP Forum Proposal</i> – SCC outlined the proposal for an EP Forum to be held on Tuesday 14 November, 4-6pm at the Civic Centre. <u>Noted</u> - Cllr Keogh asked whether greater bus user representation could be achieved across the city wards, in addition to Harefield. 	

	<p>e. <i>Southampton MRT Progress</i> – SCC presented key highlights from the MRT feasibility study and discussed the continued aspiration for a mass transit system across the city. <u>Noted</u> - Bluestar requested that the data and costs presented are sense checked for accuracy. All agreed that a BRT type proposition is the best way forward. Richard Soper added that we have a great example in Hampshire with the Eclipse between Fareham and Gosport.</p> <p>f. <i>City Centre – Christmas Market</i>. Diversion routes will be known and provided by Bluestar on Monday 16 October, and SCC has offered to provide communications support to help generate customer awareness ahead of the Bargate Street closure. <u>Noted</u> - Bluestar wanted to make it clear that they still object to the Christmas market closure of Bargate Street, as they feel it's damaging for bus services in the city and is not in keeping with the EP's aims and objectives. <u>Noted</u> - Cllr Keogh asked for the issue of parking at bus stops to be investigated.</p> <p>g. <i>Comms & Marketing</i> – SCC provided an overview of the communication and marketing programme, including impact of current Concessionary Fares radio campaign.</p> <p>h. <i>Comms & Marketing - BSIP Survey</i>. The BSIP survey will be live from 23 October for two weeks, plus the option of a further week if initial responses are low. <u>Noted</u> - Bluestar to help promote the survey via website and social media accounts.</p>	
5	EP Motions for Approval	IS/EB
	<p>a. EP programme for the next 6 months – <u>agreed</u>.</p> <p>b. Southampton BSIP+ spend proposals – <u>agreed</u>.</p> <p>c. Update to EP Terms of Reference – <u>agreed</u>.</p>	
6	Date of EP Board Meetings	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 January 2024, Bluestar HQ, Empress Road. • 26 April 2024, Civic Centre & 19 July 2024, Bluestar HQ, Empress Road. 	
7	AOB	All
	<p>A discussion took place on negative social media comments on Bluestar social media pages regarding punctuality and reliability of buses and whether more positive social media posts are needed and evidenced by statistics.</p> <p>A discussion also took place on Sunday services and potential travel planning for churches. <u>Noted</u> - would like to see this included as a working group action.</p>	
	Date of next meeting: 11 January 2024, Bluestar HQ, Empress Road.	

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. 	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.	Complete
19/07/2023	3	BS	To undertake active communications regarding fleet upgrades.	Complete
19/07/2023	3	SCC/BS	Monitor the impact of expanded fleet and fleet upgrades to evaluate any impacts.	Ongoing
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
13/10/2023	4	SCC	To consider how the EP Forum can achieve greater bus user representation from city wards.	Not started
13/10/2023	4	SCC	To review journey time and cost outputs from the Mass Transit Feasibility Study for accuracy.	Not started
13/10/2023	4	SCC	Cllr Keogh asked for the issue of parking at bus stops to be investigated.	Not started
13/10/2023	4	SCC/BS	Bluestar to help promote the BSIP survey via website and social media accounts.	Not started
13/10/2023	7	BS	To consider how to respond to negative comments regarding bus punctuality and reliability.	Not started
13/10/2023	7	SCC	To consider how to engage the Church Community in travel planning as an action for the Working Groups.	Not started