

Meeting Title:	Southampton Enhanced Partnership Board – Notes of Meeting (agreed at April EP Board)	
Date:	11th January 2024	
Time:	11:00-13:00	
Location:	Bluestar HQ, Empress Road, 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, Go South Coast General Manager; Andrew Wickham, Go South Coast 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:	Richard Soper, South Hampshire Bus Operators Association (SHBOA).	
Ref	Agenda Items	Presenting
1	Welcome & Introductions	Cllr Keogh
2	Minutes & Actions from Previous Meeting	All
	<p>Minutes from the EP Board meeting held on 23rd October 2023. An email will be forwarded to all to confirm acceptance.</p> <p>Progress against actions were noted. In addition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PB is keen that SCC continues to apply for funding schemes. Action: RT to provide updated list of the worst bus stops in terms of parking infringements. 	
3	Round Table Update	All
	<p>Go South Coast:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ZEBRA 2 bid was not submitted due to a lack of local electricity supply until 2036, and it was disappointing that the DfT did not support the alternative scheme offered. Action: SCC to continue to work with the Council’s local energy team should further ZEBRA tranches be released. • AW highlighted that Hydrogen powered could be an option for longer distance buses, with electric for local buses. However, there are difficulties with securing hydrogen and how to store it. (PB noted that 	AW/AWS/ WH/PB

the Solent LEP stakeholders are looking at a Hydrogen Hub and are looking at potential users.

- Bluestar drivers and employees, two pay rounds have been concluded and the company is at full staffing establishment.
- The company have been progressing repairs following the purchase of the Empress Road depot.
- Bus fleet. Sixteen new ADL E400MMC Euro 6 diesel buses are on order for Bluestar 2, and 8 buses are to be refurbished for Bluestar 19. Following the recent transfer of 2018 Euro 6 ADL E200MMCs from sister company More Bus, the Bluestar fleet will be 100% Euro 6 from that point except for college buses which do not operate in the city.
- The company recently the won 2023 'Bus Operator of the Year' accolade.
- PB noted that it would be good to have an age profile summary of the whole fleet.
Action: RT to provide an update and fleet age profile for the next meeting.

SHBOA: (on behalf of smaller operators)

- Unfortunately, no updates from First Solent and Xelabus.

Hampshire County Council:

- AWS provided an update on the BSIP+ funding and concessionary fare underspend – £7.2m allocation. Emails have been sent to bus operators asking how they would like to spend the allocation which is circa £10m in total.
- For Bluestar this could mean potential improvements to Bluestar 1 and 9, restoring the pre-pandemic frequencies.
- The Rushington Roundabout and Marchwood TCF works are currently on site and confirmation over the Junction Road, Totton scheme is currently awaited.
- Bishopstoke corridor, ex TCF scheme, an interim scheme featuring Selective Vehicle Detection at traffic light junctions will be rolled out in the interim.
- It was suggested that the Easter service changes for Bluestar utilising the BSIP+ allocation will sit outside of the desire for prescribed twice year service changes. AWS confirmed that a degree of flexibility is acceptable.

Southampton City Council:

- Concessionary fares work is in progress with communications issued to all operators.
- BSIP+ - funding agreed for enhancements to Bluestar 19 from February and services 10 and 13 in April. The extension of the £1 evening single fare and '5 for £5' fare campaigns.
- Air quality is now part of the Integrated Transport remit and seeking funding through NO2 Plan for NOx compliance – could include further fare offers, bus services including a trial weekend Park & Ride from Adanac Park.
- There will be a Breeze mobility pilot trial, £50pm travel credits on the app for people aged under 30 and in receipt of council tax support.
- It was felt that an opportunity could be to at social housing support for new tenants and bus travel.
- PB advised that has been increases in parking charges and Itchen Bridge tolls to help with council funding but also .
- Cllr Keogh added that he values the corridor approach for improving public transport.
- PB advised that there will be changes to the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council positions.

4	EP Working Group Highlights	IS/EB/DG
	<p>Highlights from Working Groups: Further information in the slide pack.</p> <p>a. <i>EP Board Meetings 2024 (including joint Southampton-Hampshire).</i> The next EP Board is to be a one-off joint HCC/SCC meeting in April to 'celebrate 1st Anniversary' of EP and review wider City Region projects. A desire is to invite the DfT to this meeting - AW has offered to host it at Empress Road and happy to supply a bus for any DfT visit. Action: SCC to arrange the next EP Board Meeting.</p> <p>b. <i>BSIP Target Monitoring.</i> IS provided an overview of overall punctuality across the city which is currently 76%, with the western corridor particularly affected due to the Redbridge Causeway works and the Rushington Roundabout scheme. Action: SCC & BS to provide a corridor list of punctuality concerns at the next EP Working Group.</p> <p>c. <i>2023 BSIP Survey.</i> IS ran through the 2023 BSIP Survey results. Action: SCC and Bluestar to follow up on the safety concern raised in the survey and perhaps market that all buses feature CCTV to dispel customer safety concerns.</p> <p>d. <i>BSIP+ Christmas group fare offer.</i> IS ran through the sales during the Christmas offer period. RT noted that Christmas Day patronage was up between 15 & 20% compared to last year.</p> <p>e. <i>EP Forum update.</i> IS discussed the feedback received at the November EP Forum.</p> <p>f. <i>Southampton to Eastleigh Bus Route Investment Plan (Bluestar 2).</i> DG presented an overview of the route investment plan – which is first of series looking at the cross-boundary routes for initiatives and schemes to improve journey times and reliability. PB advised a desire to work with the smoother highways programme to improve bus roads. <i>The full draft document is circulated with these minutes for final comment.</i></p> <p>g. <i>Infrastructure Programme, including Portland Terrace Bus Gate & Albion Place Bus Hub.</i> EB provided an overview of the infrastructure programme and advised that enforcement of the Portland Terrace Bus Gate (late February) will be in place with an initial warning letter, then a fine upon the second contravention.</p> <p>h. <i>Comms & Marketing Activities.</i> EB provided an overview.</p>	
5	EP Motions for Approval	IS/EB
	Nothing formal to agree at this meeting.	
6	Date of EP Board Meetings	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23 April 2024, Civic Centre or Bluestar HQ, Empress Road. • 19 July 2024, Civic Centre 	
7	AOB	All
	PB advised a drive to reduce costs for independent travel training and will be useful to have a conversation with Bluestar regarding this. Action: SCC to arrange a meeting with Bluestar to discuss.	

	Date of next meeting: 23 April 2024, venue to be confirmed.	

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.	Complete
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.	Complete
13/10/2023	4	SCC	To consider how the EP Forum can achieve greater bus user representation from city wards.	Ongoing
13/10/2023	4	SCC	To review journey time and cost outputs from the Mass Transit Feasibility Study for accuracy.	Complete
13/10/2023	4	SCC	Cllr Keogh asked for the issue of parking at bus stops to be investigated.	In progress
13/10/2023	4	SCC/BS	Bluestar to help promote the BSIP survey via website and social media accounts.	Complete
13/10/2023	7	BS	To consider how to respond to negative comments regarding bus punctuality and reliability.	Complete
13/10/2023	7	SCC	To consider how to engage the Church Community in travel planning as an action for the Working Groups.	Ongoing
11/01/2024	2	BS	RT to provide updated list of the worst bus stops in terms of parking infringements.	
11/01/2024	3	SCC	IS to continue to work with the Council's local energy team with the desire to support a further ZEBRA bid.	
11/01/2024	3	BS	RT to provide an update and fleet age profile for the next meeting.	
11/01/2024	4	SCC	SCC to arrange the next EP Board Meeting which will be jointly held with HCC and the DfT	
11/01/2024	4	SCC & BS	SCC & BS to provide a route-by-route list of punctuality concerns at the next EP Working Group.	

11/01/2024	4	SCC & BS	SCC and BS to follow up on the safety concern raised in the BSIP survey and perhaps market that all buses feature CCTV to dispel safety concerns.	
11/01/2024	7	SCC	SCC to arrange a meeting with BS to discuss independent travel training.	