

Meeting Title:	Southampton Enhanced Partnership Board – Notes of Meeting
Date:	23 April 2024
Time:	10:00-12:30pm
Location:	Bluestar HQ, Empress Road, Southampton

Invitees: Cllr Eamonn Keogh, SCC Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport (Chair);
 Cllr Nick Adams-King, HCC Executive Lead Member for Universal Services;
 Pete Boustred, SCC Head of Transport & Planning;
 Wade Holmes, SCC, Service Manager, Integrated Transport;
 Richard Tyldsley, Go South Coast General Manager;
 Richard Soper, South Hampshire Bus Operators Association (SHBOA);
 Andrew Wickham, Go South Coast Managing Director;

Observers

Ben Kempner, Department for Transport Bus Team;
 Peter Duggan, Department for Transport Area Lead South East;
 Andrew Wilson, HCC Strategic Transport Manager (Public Transport);
 Conrad Haigh, Solent Transport Lead Officer;
 Iain Steane, SCC Transport Policy & Sustainable Travel Manager;
 Emma Baker, SCC Strategic Transport Planner;
 David Garney, SCC Senior Transport Planner.

Apologies: Richard Soper, South Hampshire Bus Operators Association (SHBOA).
 Peter Duggan, Department for Transport Bus Team (observer).

Ref	Agenda Items	Presenting
1	Welcome & Introductions	Cllr Keogh
2	Minutes & Actions from Previous Meeting	All
	Minutes from the EP Board meeting held on 11 January 2024 were accepted and agreed at the meeting. Progress against actions were noted and closed actions will be removed. A summary of old and new actions is provided at the end of this document.	
3	Review of the year (presentations in the accompanying Board pack) IS provided the Southampton City Council presentation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Including an overview of how the EP works and its governance • The achievements made in this year – fare offers, bus network support, campaigns. AWS provided the Hampshire County Council presentation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted a forthcoming official EV launch in June with First Bus, including a depot visit and bus tour. 	IS/AWS/RT/ CH

	<p>RT provided the Bluestar presentation with additional notes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been good growth on service 13 and is close to commercial viability. • Seven of the 16 new Enviro400 MMC buses for services 2 and 7 are now in service. • In two months, all buses will be in Bluestar livery and Euro 6. The average fleet age will reduce from 9 to 6 years. • AWS added that BSIP+ has enabled us to grow the network, both in Southampton and in Hampshire. AW highlighted that these services should be commercially available at the end of the BSIP+ funding. • PB added that the use of the BSIP+ monies has been phenomenal. • AW highlighted their ambition to become the fourth highest in England for bus patronage – leapfrogging Tyne and Wear. <p>CH provided the Solent Transport presentation with the following additional notes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Breeze app is the biggest Mobility as a Service (MaaS) app in the UK - ~25,000 users. • The Solent Go ITSO card will continue for a further year, with new tickets for the Portsmouth area available from June. • PB highlighted that the mobility credits data is powerful. A conversation has been held with the DfT to hold concessions on the Breeze app. • Cllr Keogh added that he is keen to get people attending St Mary’s football stadium onto the Breeze app. 	
4	<p>EP Working Group Highlights</p>	<p>IS/EB/DG</p>
	<p>Highlights from Working Groups (further information in the Board pack.</p> <p>EP Strategic</p> <p>Power Supply IS mentioned the electricity supply issue in Southampton until 2038 which prevented a ZEBRA 2 bid. BK mentioned that Medway and Swindon have the same issue with supply. AW added that Go South Coast did look at aerobic digester technology as an alternative, but it didn’t meet the ZEBRA 2 criteria.</p> <p>PB mentioned that the Solent cluster are looking at Hydrogen.</p> <p>Cllr Adams-King mentioned a meeting with ABP and power supply for the cruise ships. PB added that it’s a sub region issue and the way forward is local plans. Local area energy plans will help to progress the coordination.</p> <p>RT mentioned that the University of Southampton want to move to heat pumps but are unable to, and the ferry operators also want electric.</p> <p>AW advised that the company want the power at night to charge the buses, wanting the power when nobody else needs it.</p> <p>ACTION – SCC officers to liaise with SCC Energy Team on the local energy actions plans and understand impact for buses. ACTION - SCC to prepare a note for DfT summarising the challenges of energy supply in the city and the impact on electrification of the bus fleet. ACTION - BK agreed to feedback the energy concerns to the ZEBRA team.</p> <p>2024 BSIP document and Bus Connectivity Assessment</p>	

	<p>IS provided an overview of the progress with the 2024 BSIP document and the new Bus Connectivity Assessment (BCA). The BCA is viewed to be more work than originally established and data heavy. The team will be in touch for any additional data requirements.</p> <p>Patronage & Punctuality</p> <p>EB updated the group that year on year growth into 2024 is ahead of 2019 and concessions have stabilised at around 77% of 2019/20 levels.</p> <p>PB asked Bluestar if they knew where the growth is coming from? RT added that the leisure market is a contributor and people are coming back into the office.</p> <p>AW advised that the growth in fare payers is great, reliability issues are now going away and recruitment is stable. The £2 fare cap has made a difference, and more people are travelling into the evening.</p> <p>Cllr Keogh added that service 10 is a lifeline for areas of the city with deprivation. Better bus stops and shelters are important in deprived areas.</p> <p>Bus Route Investment Plan update</p> <p>DG updated the growth with progress on the Bus Route Investment Plans for interurban routes 1,2,3,4,8/9,14 and X4/X5.</p> <p>These documents detail the short-, medium- and long-term ambitions as we head towards the aspiration of Mass Rapid Transit.</p> <p>RT added that he would like to see in the document the percentage of how bus services have slowed down due to development and congestion.</p> <p>Infrastructure works</p> <p>Update included in the Board pack.</p> <p>Comms & Engagement</p> <p>Update included in the Board pack.</p>	
5	Round Table Update	All
	<p>a. DfT</p> <p>BK advised that the group clearly have got a plan together and how to deliver it and is great to note the relationship with the bus operators and stakeholders.</p> <p>Roadworks need to be better aligned, which arises in a lot of areas. PB advised that we are looking at a lane rental scheme with potentially works at night in the next financial year.</p> <p>WH asked if we can we use BSIP monies for red routes, lane rentals etc. BK confirmed that this is possible if the benefit is for buses. AW indicated that Bluestar are completely supportive of this.</p> <p>BK added that perhaps an opportunity would be to invite utility companies into the EP working groups. The EP has a lot of flexibility and options to help buses, and this would seem a good way forward.</p>	

	<p>b. Go South Coast AW advised that they are interested in the former Shopmobility building and need to relocate by 8 June. The company would appreciate if the legal arrangements could be expedited quickly by SCC.</p> <p>ACTION – RT & WH to progress with Steven Reynolds, SCC Estates Surveyor.</p> <p>RT advised that the recent ticket machine upgrade has gone well, which is quicker for both customers and staff.</p> <p>c. SHBOA (on behalf of smaller operators) No update received.</p> <p>d. Hampshire County Council AWS advised that although the BSIP+ work is progressing well, the council’s financial challenges are affecting local bus and schools, with underlying budgets under considerable pressure.</p> <p>e. Southampton City Council PB advised that SCC also has budget challenges with receiving emergency budget support and had already removed the revenue support funding. That said, what the group has been able to do with low BSIP+ funding is remarkable and need to keep going with funding opportunities. Now’s the time to look at 2025-2030 medium to long term opportunities.</p> <p>BK advised that for the 2024 BSIP document, assume this could be used for future funding bids as the ground work would have already been covered which would put the group in a good position to deliver.</p> <p>WH advised that SCC launched the 2023 Walking and Cycling Index (done in partnership with Sustrans) and building an evidence base for PT. The Citizens Climate Assembly’s main recommendation was for a mass transit scheme for the city.</p> <p>Discussion over providing buses with priority post-football matches while traffic is being held on Northam Road</p> <p>ACTION – Cllr Keogh has asked for bus priority after one Saints game. SCC officers to arrange and communicate.</p> <p>f. Solent Transport As per the update in the Board pack.</p>	
6	Date of EP Board Meetings	All
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23 July 2024, Civic Centre • October 2024, date, and location to be agreed 	
7	AOB	All
	None noted.	
	Date of next meeting: 23 July 2024, Civic Centre, Executive Boardroom.	

AGREE MINUTES & ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

MEETING DATE	ITEM	RESPONSIBLE	ACTION	UPDATE (POST-MEETING)	STATUS
19/07/2023	1	SCC & BS	Monitor the impact of expanded fleet and fleet upgrades to evaluate any impacts -	Being done as part of the BSIP 2024 update.	Complete
13/10/2023	2	SCC	To consider how the EP Forum can achieve greater bus user representation from city wards.	Contact made with other groups – Southampton Science Park and Highfield Residents Association which are attending the May Forum.	Complete
13/10/2023	3	SCC	Cllr Keogh asked for the issue of parking at bus stops to be investigated.	Being incorporated into BRIPs and actioning through them.	Complete
13/10/2023	4	SCC	To consider how to engage the Church Community in travel planning as an action for the Working Groups.		Ongoing
11/01/2024	5	BS	RT to provide updated list of the worst bus stops in terms of parking infringements.	List provided as part of the BRIP (Item 3).	Complete
11/01/2024	6	SCC	Engage with the Council's local energy team with the desire to support a further ZEBRA bid.	Transport Policy engaged with Energy Team and EV Lead to inform the Local Area Energy Plans.	In progress
11/01/2024	7	BS	RT to provide an update and fleet age profile for the next meeting.	Provided at EP Board on 23 April and attached to minutes.	In progress
11/01/2024	8	SCC	SCC to arrange the next EP Board Meeting which will be jointly held with HCC and the DfT	Held on 23 April with DfT and HCC in attendance.	Complete
11/01/2024	9	SCC & BS	SCC & BS to provide a route-by-route list of punctuality concerns at the next EP Working Group.	Being incorporated into individual BRIPs, BSIP update and reporting.	In progress
11/01/2024	10	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.	To be done as part of the BSIP+ funded comm campaign post Elections – SCC Internal Comms to develop a wider bus campaign.	In progress
11/01/2024	11	SCC	SCC to arrange a meeting with BS to discuss independent travel training.		In progress
New Actions					
23/04/2024	12	SCC	SCC to investigate the local energy action plans.		To be started
23/04/2024	13	SCC	SCC to prepare a note for DfT summarising the challenges of energy supply in the city and the impact on electrification of the bus fleet.		To be started
23/04/2024	14	DfT	BK agreed to feedback the energy concerns to the ZEBRA team.		To be started
23/04/2024	15	Bluestar/SCC	RT & WH to progress the expedition of the Shopmobility site legal process with Steven Reynolds, SCC Estates Surveyor, with a view to having access from 8 June 2024.		In progress

23/04/2024	16	SCC	Cllr Keogh has asked for bus priority after one Saints game. SCC officers to arrange and communicate.		To be started
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Go South Coast 'Southampton area' Fleet Profile – April 2024

Total fleet size – 195

Euro 4 retrofitted to Euro 6 – 30

Euro 5 retrofitted to Euro 6 – 39

Euro 6 – 126

Footnote, feedback from the DfT post meeting.

I just wanted to say a massive thank you to you both for organising and hosting my site visit last week. I found it really interesting and productive, and it was great to see the collaborative approach in Southampton between the LTA and operators as well as with colleagues in Hampshire, along with all the successes achieved in the last 12 months and your plans going forward. Thanks also for the lunch and the bus tour which gave us the opportunity to try out the new bus and see more of the area. Please relay my thanks to all your colleagues, the operators and your Portfolio Holder.

I look forward to visiting again.

All the best, Ben.