


Meeting Title:	 Southampton Bus Service Improvement Plan Southampton Enhanced Partnership Board – Notes of Meeting agreed at the July EP Board
Date:	29 April 2025
Time:	10:00am-12:00pm
Location:	Boardroom, Empress Road, Southampton & MS Teams
<u>Invitees:</u>	<p>Cllr Eamonn Keogh, SCC Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport (Chair); Pete Boustred, SCC Head of Transport & Planning; Wade Holmes, SCC, Service Manager, Integrated Transport; Richard Tyldsley, Go South Coast General Manager;</p> <p><u>Observers</u> Andrew Wilson, HCC Strategic Transport Manager (Public Transport); Iain Steane, SCC Transport Policy & Sustainable Travel Manager; Emma Baker, SCC Strategic Transport Planner; David Garney, SCC Senior Transport Planner.</p> <p><u>Apologies:</u> Andrew Wickham, Go South Coast Managing Director; Adam Mugliston, First Bus Network Revenue Manager; Chris Chester, First Bus Head of Operations.</p>

Ref	Agenda Items	Presenting
1	Welcome & Introductions	Cllr Keogh
	Cllr Keogh introduced the meeting, which marks the second anniversary of the Southampton Enhanced Bus Partnership.	
2	Minutes & Actions from Previous Meeting	All
	<p>Minutes from the EP Board meeting held on 29 January 2025 were accepted and agreed at the meeting.</p> <p>General comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cllr Keogh would like to see a briefing with MPs on public transport. <p>Action: PB to organise providing a BSIP update to MPs.</p>	
3	EP & BSIP Update	EB
	<p>EB ran through the EP & BSIP update slides.</p> <p>General comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hill Lane bus service (BS19a) - A discussion took place on the new service and what needs to be achieved for the service to be commercially viable. RT believes the 19a to be close to commercial and the City Swift data will help show where patronage is. 	

	<p>Action – SCC and GSC to work together on looking at TOTO data and incorporating additional insights and cost-benefit analysis into summaries for services that receive BSIP pump-prime/support.</p> <p>Action - Cllr Keogh would like a bit more awareness of Tap On Tap Off in future campaigns.</p>	
4	EP Working Group Highlights	IS/EB
	<p>EB ran through the slides highlighting process on the EP/BSIP programme, including growth on the supported services, Portswood and the forward programme to July 2025.</p> <p>General comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Keogh is keen for communities to get behind their bus services. • AWS is keen to see messages around the operator investment in new buses integrated into messages on the BSIP funding. • AWS added that HCC are providing a challenge fund for local communities to help run their own local bus service and for new bus shelters with real time information. Capital and revenue funding schemes will be made available. • AWS added that he would like to see the HCC funded services included which are also seeing positive growth. • A discussion took place on Portswood, including punctuality improvements to bus services and ongoing issues related to parking on double yellow lines. • The Board discussed the upcoming work programme, including future fare offers if the Council received a generous multi-year funding settlement. Cllr Keogh would particularly like to see the return of the 5 for £5 group travel offer if future funding allows. <p>Action – As part of the Portswood project SCC to review the level of parking in bus stop cages and on double yellow lines around the Portswood Broadway stops and to identify future improvements if needed.</p> <p>Action - RT to provide comparison data for the £8.50 group ticket and 5 for £5 offer.</p> <p>IS ran through the Bus Service Improvement Plan targets, a deep dive of the bus market, and work to support decarbonisation of the bus fleet.</p> <p>General comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RT highlighted that Bluestar and Unilink are up 7% up year on year and that concessionary use is up 11% on 2023. • RT highlighted that SCC & HCC BSIP fundings has helped increase passenger numbers. • RT highlighted that sufficient power needs to be sought now as consideration is being given to vehicle upgrades in 2027. 	
5	Motions for Approval	IS
	<p>IS ran through the SCC BSIP proposals and it was agreed that without other bus operators at the meeting, the motion for approval would be followed up by email.</p> <p>General comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RT added that the company could not offer the £1 without subsidy and advised that Southampton fares continue to be excellent value for money. • AWS advised that the HCC BSIP pump priming will cover a 10-minute daytime frequency on Bluestar 1, a 20-minute frequency on Bluestar 2 together with the Saturday existing arrangements and additional later 	

	<p>evening journeys on Bluestar 15. Selected Vehicle Detection at light-controlled junctions on Bluestar 2 & 9.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AWS added that HCC are working on another joint marketing campaign and ideas are welcome. • £2.1m will be available for the Bishopstoke Road inbound bus lane with work commencing in the 2026/27 budget year. • HCC are also working on South East Hampshire Rapid Transit development with PCC. <p>Recommendation To formally approve the schemes that have been identified as a priority for Bus Grant Funding.</p> <p>Action – SCC to circulate the BSIP proposals by email to allow all parties to review and approve.</p>	
6	Round Table Update	All
	Round table updates were covered throughout the meeting.	
7	Date of EP Board Meetings	All
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22 July 2025 – Executive Boardroom, Civic Centre. 	
8	AOB	All
	None	

NEW ACTIONS FROM THIS MEETING

MEETING DATE	ITEM	RESPONSIBLE	ACTION	STATUS
29/4/2025	3	SCC	PB to provide a BSIP update to MPs.	In progress. Stakeholder Newsletter being prepared to be provided prior to PB meeting with MPs. AW happy to be included. Joint approach to update.
29/4/2025	3&4	SCC & Bluestar	SCC and GSC to work together on looking at TOTO data and incorporating additional insights and cost-benefit analysis into summaries for services that receive BSIP pump-prime/support.	Reported in the July EP Board pack.
29/4/2025	3	SCC/Bluestar	Continue to increase awareness of Tap On Tap Off in future campaigns.	Ongoing.
29/4/2025	4	SCC	SCC to investigate parking in bus stop cages and on double yellow lines and to identify future improvements if needed.	In progress. Bluestar to provide a list of the top 10 bus stops.
29/4/2025	4	Bluestar	RT to provide comparison data for the £8.50 group ticket and 5 for £5 offer.	Bluestar to provide.
29/4/2025	5	SCC	SCC to circulate the BSIP proposals by email to allow all parties to review and approve.	Complete.