


Meeting Title:	 Southampton Bus Service Improvement Plan Southampton Enhanced Partnership Board – Notes of Meeting agreed at October 2025 EP Board
Date:	22 July 2025
Time:	10:00am-12:00pm
Location:	Executive Boardroom, Civic Centre, Southampton & MS Teams
<u>Attendees:</u>	<p>Cllr Christie Lambert, SCC Cabinet Member for Transport, Pete Boustred, SCC Director of Transport & Planning; Wade Holmes, SCC, Service Manager, Integrated Transport;</p> <p>Ben Murray, Go South Coast Interim Managing Director; Richard Tyldsley, Go South Coast General Manager;</p> <p>Cllr Lulu Bowerman, HCC Executive Member for Highways & Passenger Transport;</p> <p>Caroline Mekky, Passenger Transport Manager, Hampshire County Council (for Andrew Wilson) (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>
<u>Apologies:</u>	<p>Andrew Wilson, HCC Strategic Transport Manager (Public Transport); Chris Chester, First South, Head of Operations.</p>

Ref	Agenda Items	Presenting
1	Welcome & Introductions	PB
	<p>PB started the meeting and introduced both Cabinet Members and Ben Murray on behalf of Go South Coast.</p> <p>Change in SCC Leader and Cabinet – Cllr Christie Lambert is now SCC Cabinet Member for Transport taking that position on the EP Board.</p>	
2	Minutes & Actions from the Previous Meeting	All
	<p>Minutes from the EP Board meeting held on 29 April 2025 were accepted and agreed at the meeting.</p> <p>Action Log Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EB advised that a stakeholder newsletter noting BSIP progress is in production and will be circulated shortly. Action Closed. RT advised that when the 5 for £5 group fare offer is running, sales increase by 259%, The data shows that the offer increases demand for this ticket by 117% compared to usual. Action Closed. 	
3	EP & BSIP Update	IS

	<p>For the benefit of the new attendees at this meeting, IS provided an overview of the Southampton Enhanced Partnership and progress with the Bus Service Improvement Plan. With specific reference to achievements over the past 3 months and activities planned for the next 3 months.</p> <p>General comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PB advised that the BSIP/BGF funding process is now levelling out with good funding settlements to local transport authorities. • IS discussed the DfT requirement for quarterly reporting on BGF funding and the Bus indicator Pilot which allows LTA's to confirm what data methods are available to assist with the quarterly reporting. CM added that HCC would be able to provide the details annually rather than quarterly. • A discussion took place regarding the new weekend Park and Ride service which following completion of actions surrounding the UHS car park will start in late September 2025. PB asked whether the service could commence from Saturday 13 September to coincide with events in the city that weekend. <p>Action – HCC to follow up the request for adequate signage directing motorists towards the Park & Ride car park from Hampshire roads.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IS went through the August BGF changes. PB added that the SCC/HCC partnership is working well with joint funding on services serving the wider city travel to work area. 	
4	EP Working Group Highlights	IS/EB
	<p><u>Supported Bus Services</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated information on SCC Supported/Enhanced Service – PB thanked the team for providing the slide covering the supported bus services and the associated cost per passenger in that clear style, with this outstanding action now closed. <p><u>Spending Review</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of the 2025 Spending Review – including Local Transport Grant funding to SCC & HCC, £3 Fare Cap to March 2027, Bus Grant Funding and Combined Active Travel Fund; • RT discussed that the £3 fare cap has resulted in a 3-4% loss of commercial revenue from areas outside of the city. In the city, a greater number of customers are buying day and week tickets. The £1 evening fare continues to do well. • RT added that city services are achieving 3% annual growth. <p><u>Devolution</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PB provided an overview of devolution and local government reorganisation. There is an Officers Working Group on Transport with sub-group on public transport; • Cllr Bowerman commented that this is a really good opportunity for working together with the unitary authorities and a good time to start having these conversations now. Cllr Lambert agreed that this is a good opportunity for Southampton. • RT asked how the Mayoral County Combined Authority (MCCA) will affect the individual EP boards, will there be one or multiple? PB advised that this is being looked at and will be confirmed. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WH added that the DfT funding is being devolved rather than the other way around. • PB agreed that it will be an interesting time for governance surrounding the future of the EP's and will link across to the planning powers coming together alongside transport in the MCCA. <p>Action – SCC to liaise on an informal meeting for Cabinet Members with IOW, PCC and HCC to discuss the opportunities this will present.</p>	
5	Motions for Approval	IS
	<p>IS provided an overview regarding the principles of the Bus Service Improvement Plans and what they are designed to achieve. Short to longer term improvements, bus stops and shelters through to the aspirations for Mass Rapid Transit.</p> <p>General comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus journey times have increased over the years and bus speeds have gotten slower. • The first tranche of improvements will be along the Shirley corridor over the next 12 months. • Along with physical improvements, the team will also gain bus user feedback. • WH added that before and after statistics will be compared to see if the improvements have worked. <p>Recommendation To formally approve the principles for the Bus Service Improvement Plans.</p>	
6	Round Table Update	All
	<p>Go South Coast</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patronage is 2-3% down (3-4% down for longer distance destinations due to the £3 fare cap). • 20 new vehicles delivered this year reducing the average fleet age to 8 years. • Barton Peveril college buses are being replaced with newer higher capacity buses with 89 seats ensuring that the remaining Euro 5 buses will be moved out. 5 more Enviro E400s have been ordered for Bluestar 1 to coincide with the daytime frequency uplift to every 10 minutes. • The company are staffing up for September to meet the requirements for the registered timetable changes. • Go-ahead are marketing female employment, and 20 more females have been employed locally. This campaign is being promoted across the Go-Ahead companies. • The company has also relaunched a more structured apprentice programme which is very positive. <p>Hampshire County Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CM confirmed that HCC are supporting the £1 evening fares. • Bus Route Improvement Plans are being produced for other areas of the county, for example North Hampshire, Fareham and Gosport. 	

	<p>Action - PB asked that he would like to see more detail on the HCC planned interventions from the recommendations in the jointly prepared Bus Route Investment Plans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Bowerman added that she is really enjoying Transport since being in post. <p>Southampton City Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WH advised that SCC and key city stakeholders have launched a City Plan 2025-2030, and Bluestar are a signatory which was adopted by the Cabinet and Council last week. Everybody has a part to play in the City Plan. • The City Plan then informs the Council's own Corporate Plan, essentially the renaissance vision for the city. • Engage on the new 3-year Local Transport Plan Implementation plan which encompasses all transport – roads, walking, cycling and public transport. • SCC has a new Leader, Cllr Alex Winning and a new Cabinet Member for Transport, Cllr Christie Lambert. • Cllr Lambert added that she is already learning more about buses since being in post. • Cllr Bowerman noted the city developments over the next 3 years. PB confirmed that the city centre is becoming more residential rather than commercial, with pockets of development around the district centres. 	
7	Date of EP Board Meetings	All
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 21 October 2025, 1-12pm, Bluestar Boardroom. • Tuesday 20 January 2026, 12-2pm, Civic Centre Executive Boardroom. • Tuesday 21 April 2026, 10-12pm, Bluestar Boardroom. • Tuesday 21 July 2026, 12-2pm, Civic Centre Executive Boardroom. 	
8	AOB	All
	None	

NEW ACTIONS FROM THIS MEETING

MEETING DATE	ITEM	RESPONSIBLE	ACTION	STATUS
22/7/25	3	HCC	HCC to follow up the request for adequate signage directing motorists towards the Park & Ride car park from Hampshire roads.	Completed.
22/7/25	4	SCC	SCC to liaise on an informal meeting for Cabinet Members with IOW, PCC and HCC to discuss the opportunities this will present	In progress.
22/7/25	6	HCC	At next meeting, PB asked that be more detail on the HCC planned interventions from the recommendations in the jointly prepared Bus Route Investment Plans.	To be covered at the October meeting.