

Southampton Enhanced Bus Partnership Forum

Wednesday 19 November 2025



Agenda

- 1 Welcome & Introductions
- 2 Southampton EP update and progress
- 3 The Bus Services Act
- 4 **Brainstorming Session** – what improvements do you want to see made to local bus services and bus infrastructure?
- 5 Harefield Bus Campaign & stakeholder update
- 6 Any other business



1. Welcome & Introductions

Around the room introductions.



2. Southampton EP update and progress

a) Bus Service Support

Pump-Primed Services

- Experiencing growth on all services that are receiving pump priming. These are services 10, 13, 19, 19a.
- Timetable enhancements to services 1, 2, 7 & 15 were implemented on 31 August along with new night services on N2, N17, N18, U1N.
- Investing in additional journeys has provided a more attractive timetable that meets customer needs, especially for shift workers.

A bus user survey has been undertaken for the 19a following six months of services to canvass customer feedback.

Supported Services

- The Bitterne Hoppa will continue until 31 March 2026 while a review of the eastern SCC supported services is completed.



2. Southampton EP update and progress

b) Southampton Weekend Park & Ride

Introducing services Southampton Weekend Park & Ride:

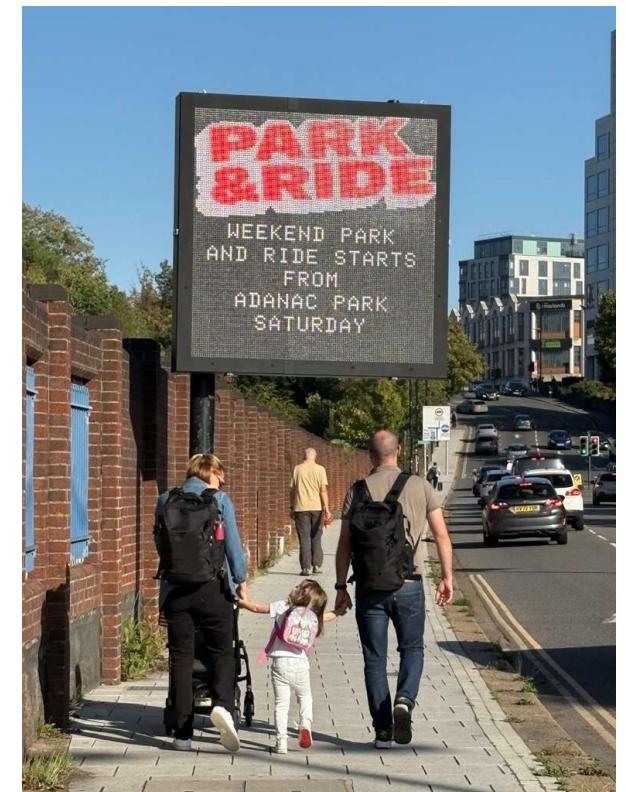
- Commenced Saturday 20 September, running **every 20 minutes**.
- PR1 - Adanac Park to the City Centre via Central Station (PR1).
- PR2 – Adanac Park to Kingsway for remaining weekend home matches (plus NYD) – 20 mins 3hrs before 2hrs after – combined 10min frequency
- 1,057 passengers carried since the services commenced.



2. Southampton EP update and progress

b) Southampton Weekend Park & Ride

Marketing & Promotion - Phase 1 - Delivered



2. Southampton EP update and progress

b) Southampton Weekend Park & Ride

Marketing & Promotion - Phase 2 – in progress:

- £3 fare in the run up to Christmas.
- Mega-rear bus adverts.
- Joint promotion with events and tourism, including Ockoberfest, Fireworks and the Christmas Market.
- Permanent and additional road signage, including on the M27 and M3.
- Increased promotion by Bluestar, Southampton Football Club and other partners (e.g. neighbouring areas).
- Timetable leaflet door drop in Totton/Waterside. To be confirmed.

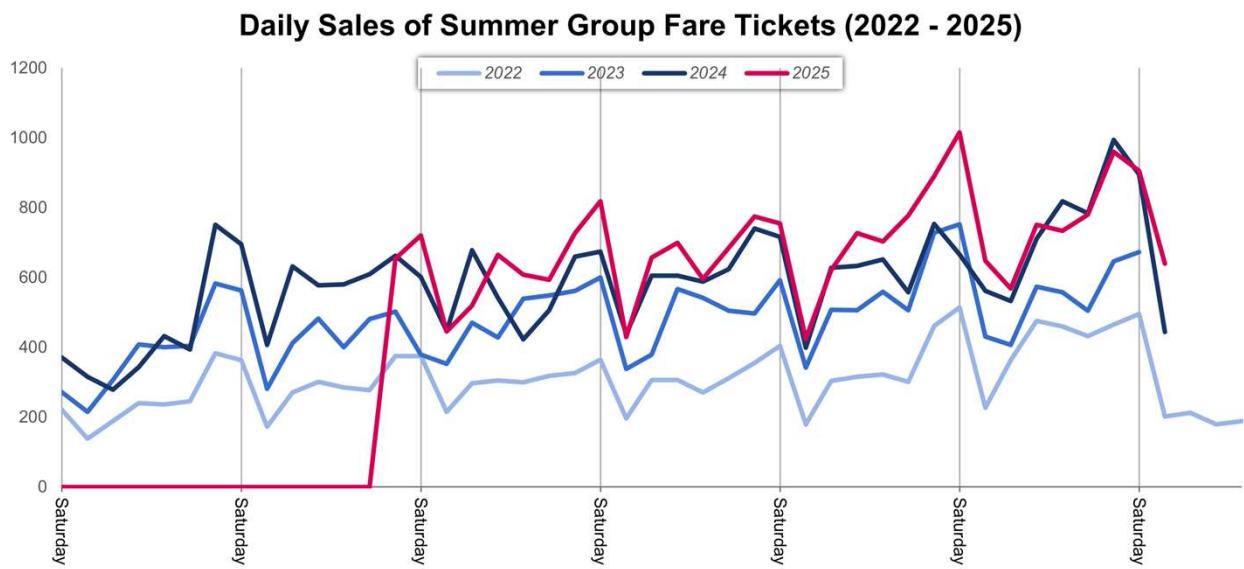


2. Southampton EP update and progress

c) 5 for £5 Group Fare

Summer 2025

- The '5 for 5' Group Ticket offer returned on Friday 1st August and ran until Sunday 31st.
- **21,523** tickets were sold at a cost of **£78,751** and an **average of 694 daily tickets.**
- Based on the ticket sales and the group sizes from the 2024 on-street survey **approximately 52,000 people benefited from the offer.**
- Peak days were at weekends, and August BH was the highest with **over 1,000 tickets sold on the Saturday.**



2. Southampton EP update and progress

d) Planned Activities in Q3 & Q4 2025/26

Complete:

- Bluestar 19a customer satisfaction survey
- Updated PT map & guide

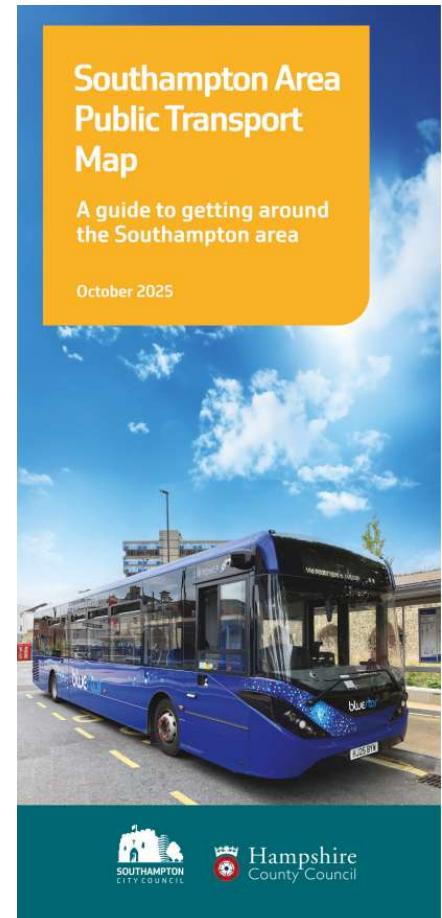
Ongoing:

- Park and Ride Phase 2 promotion
- Continuation of the £1 evening single fare
- RTI upgrades at bus stops across the city

In progress:

- Review of the eastern supported services, including the Bitterne Hoppa.
- Bus stop improvements along the Shirley Bus Route Investment Plan corridor.
- Development of options for New Road and Portland Terrace.
- RTI units at city railway stations showing bus departures

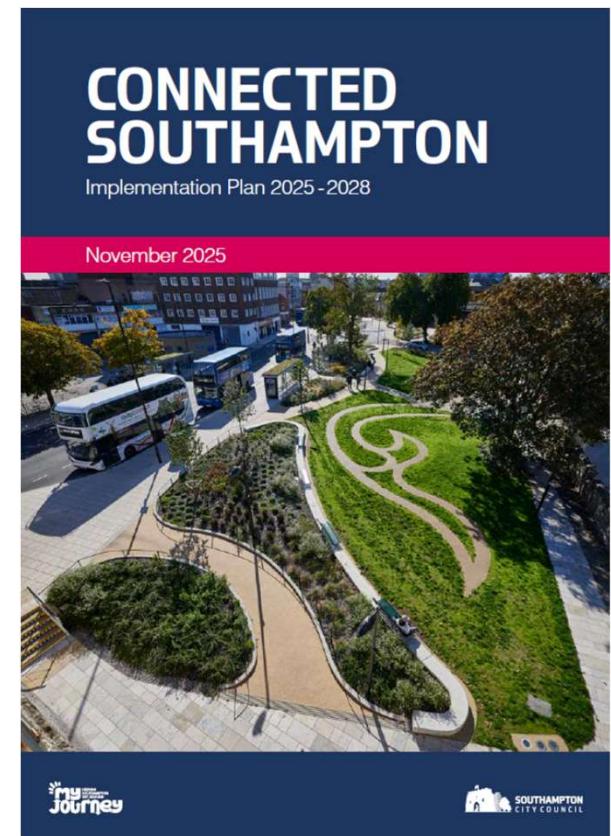
Planning for BGF 26/27 and devolution is underway.



2. Southampton EP update and progress

e) Connecting Southampton (LTP) Implementation Plan 2025-28

- Highlights progress in delivering the transport strategy and the Big Ideas, including Southampton Mass Transit System and Park and Ride.
- BSIP and the Delivery Plan inform bus improvements, including City Centre bus priority and Bus Route Improvement Plans.
- Supports redevelopment of City Centre and development of Mass Rapid Transit.
- Endorsed by Cabinet in October and will be reported to Council in November.
- Published on Connecting Southampton.
- Continuing to sell the ideas and projects set out in the Imp. Plan.





Northam Rail Bridge

Southampton City Council



The Challenge



The 117 year old Northam Rail Bridge is reaching the end of its usable life

The current Bridge carries 28,000 vehicles per day, and has 14 buses per hour

It is a pinch point on the A3024 corridor resulting in 12.4mph average speed

It currently has a 7.5 Tonne weight limit (except buses) due to its condition, with the next level of intervention would be restrict ALL motor vehicles





Britannia Road

Improvements to junction with better walking and cycle crossings to replace the existing subway, new traffic signals and better bus stops.

Northam Rail Bridge

Replace the existing bridge with a wider bridge for traffic travelling to the City Centre.

Build a new bridge to the north for traffic travelling away from the City Centre towards Bitterne.

Old Northam Road

A safer and attractive public space with more tree planting and landscaping.

Brintons's Road

Improvements to junction with better walking and cycle crossings, new traffic signals, extended bus lane, and better bus stops.

Bridge Options



Bridge design - steel girder option



Bridge design - steel truss option

Junctions



Brinton's Road junction - After



Britannia Road junction - After

Engagement Events

Engagement period – **14th November to 31st December 2025**

Public Drop In Sessions

- Southampton City College **18th November**
- Newtown YMCA Centre **19th November**
- Northam Community Centre **22nd and 26th November**

Roadshow at local places of worship and schools

Online survey available throughout

To find out more and send us your views please scan the QR code or visit southampton.gov.uk/northamrailbridge



Timeline

Project timeline



3. The Bus Services Act 2025

- The new Bus Services Bill, which became law on 27 October 2025, requires:
 - LTAs to identify **socially necessary bus services** and to protect them.
 - LTAs to prepare a **Bus Network Accessibility Plan** and review it accordingly to make it easier for disabled people to travel by bus.
 - Mandates training for bus operators and staff to help them **tackle anti-social behaviour, crime and violence against women and girls**.
- The Act also makes it easier for Local Authorities to prepare, update or revoke EP Plans and Schemes, to set up and run their own bus companies, and to pursue Franchising.



4. Brainstorming Session – what improvements do you want to see made to local bus services and bus infrastructure?

To help shape our 2026 to 2029 plans, what would you like to see?

- Local Transport Authorities are due to receive details of 3-year funding to improve buses. What would you like to see? For example, new bus services, better bus priority, more frequent timetables, new waiting facilities, zero emission buses, etc.



5. Harefield Bus Campaign & stakeholder update

An opportunity for the Harefield Bus Campaign and stakeholders to provide an update:



6. Any Other Business



Thank you for attending today

