

CABINET MEMBER DECISION

Decision:

NEW NATIONAL BUS STRATEGY (BUS BACK BETTER): NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE A BUS SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND INTRODUCE ENHANCED PARTNERSHIPS WITH BUS OPERATORS

(i) Details of decision

1. To proceed with the development of Enhanced Partnerships with bus operators in response to the new National Bus Strategy was approved.
2. That a notice of intent to prepare Enhanced Partnership Schemes, as set out in section 138F of the Transport Act 2000 be issued by the council.

(ii) Reasons for decision

The Government's aspirations in the National Bus Strategy, to be delivered through Bus Service Improvement Plans and Enhanced Partnership schemes, support the Council's own intentions within the emerging new Surrey Transport Plan, to encourage modal shift and a deliver a reduction in emissions. The National Bus Strategy requires that Local Transport Authorities commit by 30 June 2021 to preparing Enhanced Partnership Schemes, subsequently followed by the formulation of Bus Service Improvement Plans by 31 October 2021. This will enable participating Local Transport Authorities to be able to bid for new Government funding and continue to claim Coronavirus Bus Service Support Grant. Enhanced Partnerships are required to be in place by 1 April 2022.

(iii) Details of any alternative options considered and rejected

None.

(iv) Details of any consultation and representations received not included in the published report

Consultation is not required prior to issuing a Notice of Intent to prepare Enhanced Partnership Schemes. However, the Council has been proactive by already holding discussions with Surrey's bus operators, who have expressed commitment to working with the Council. Initial discussions with neighbouring local authorities have also taken place, again with an intent to work together to secure better outcomes for residents. Having stated the intention of creating Enhanced Partnerships, the subsequent development of the enabling BSIP will require formal engagement with operators, neighbouring transport authorities, bus user groups, members, residents and other stakeholders in the period July to October 2021, recognising that the Government has laid down an extremely short timescale.

Conflicts of Interest and any Dispensations Granted

(Any conflict of interest declared by any other Cabinet Member consulted in relation to the decision to be recorded and any dispensations granted by the Audit and Governance Committee)

None

Decision taken by:

- (i) **Name:** Matt Furniss
- (ii) **Portfolio:** Cabinet Member for Transport & Infrastructure

Date of Decision: 29 June 2021

Date of Publication of Record of Decision: 29 June 2021

Date decision effective (i.e. 5 working days after date of publication of record of decision unless subject to call-in by the Environment and Transport Select Committee): 6 July 2021