

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL'S SELECT COMMITTEES

SCRUTINY OF:

- National Bus Strategy for England (Bus Back Better)

Date Considered: 16 September 2021

Select Committee: Communities, Environment and Highways

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BUSES BACK BETTER

Community, Environment and Highways Select Committee scrutinised, as part of its pre-decision scrutiny process, the Government's new National Bus Strategy for England (Bus Back Better). This report provides the Select Committee's recommendations for the Cabinet.

Recommendations:

Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee support the County Council's intention to produce a Bus Service Improvement Plan and the creation of an Enhanced Partnership Scheme, both of which are a National Bus Strategy requirement and commends the extensive range of ambitious initiatives contained in the Report, while also recommending that:

- i. Serious consideration be given to reducing bus fares (at least on some routes to begin with) as stipulated in the Government's Policy document and in order to make bus travel for Surrey residents a more viable and better value option compared to driving a car.
- ii. Family discount and other concessions (U18s, U16s, etc.) bus fares be considered as part of the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP).
- iii. Any app for passengers includes information on the location of the expected service and the next available bus on the map.
- iv. The scope, terms of reference etc. for the Partnership Governance Board and the Stakeholder Reference Group are rigorously defined and delineated to help ensure the credibility and effectiveness of the Enhanced Partnership.
- v. Actively pursue the process, wherever possible, to make all Surrey buses to run on non-fossil fuel.
- vi. Better communication, awareness and publicity campaign as part of the wider Greener Future piece.

John O'Reilly
Chairman of the Community, Environment & Highways Select
Committee
Surrey County Council

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