

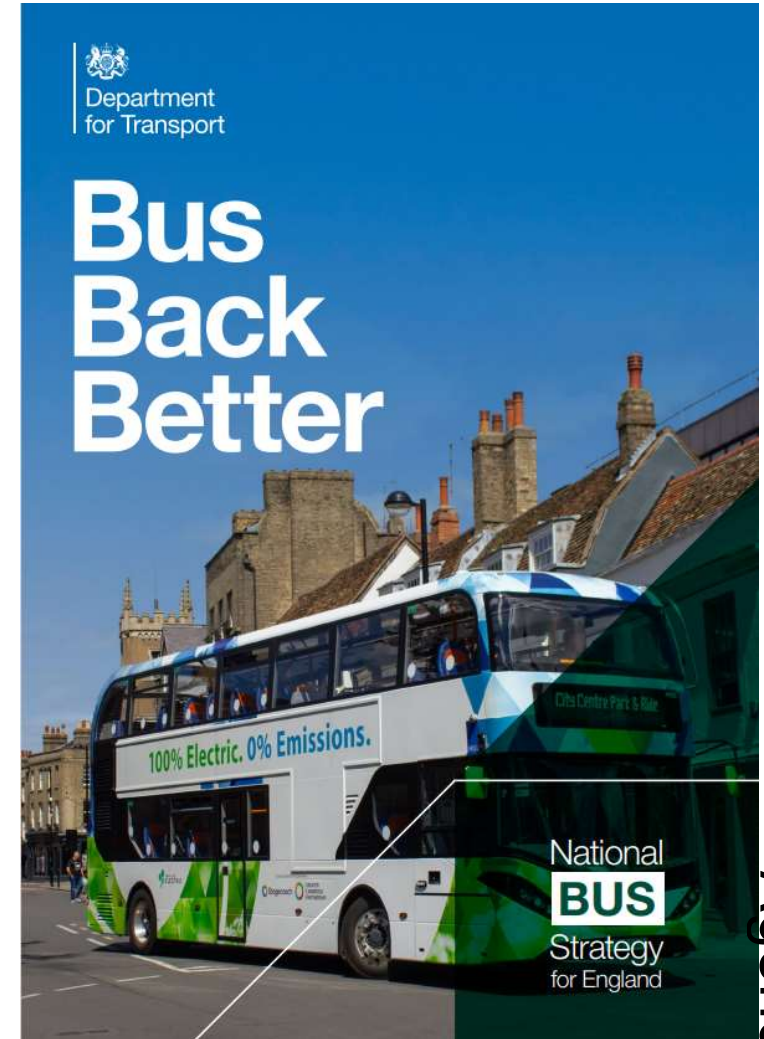
# The National Bus Strategy

## ‘Bus Back Better’

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23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021



# Introduction

- 'Bus Back Better' - Published March 2021
- Sets out Government's vision for the future of bus services
- Two options for Local Transport Authorities (LTAs) to follow:
  - Bus Franchising
  - Enhanced Partnerships between LTAs and bus operators

Page 2

- **Funding** - £3 billion is committed to the National Bus Strategy, mostly available from April 22
- Funding allocations will reflect the **level of local ambition** demonstrated by LTAs.
  - 'Ambition will be rewarded'
- Policy Themes throughout the strategy are **decarbonisation of transport, climate change and levelling up the economy**
- HCC Context – LTP4 and potential County Deal

# Government expects LTAs to work with bus operators to deliver:

- 'Turn up and go' services on main corridors
- More early morning, evening and weekend services
- Significant increases in bus priority measures to deliver quicker journeys
  - Traffic Management Act to place a duty on LTAs
- Simplified and cheaper fares with integrated ticketing
- Zero-emission buses – 'Green Bus Revolution'
- Innovation in rural services including Demand Responsive Transport
- Co-ordinated journey planning and real time information – one network
- Better bus stop facilities, interchanges, bus stations
- Integration with rail services and active modes
- More passenger engagement and a Passenger Charter

# Timeline

- Rapid mobilisation has been required – very tight deadlines
  - Exec Member approved Enhanced Partnership approach 17<sup>th</sup> June '21
  - Bus Service Improvement Plan for Hampshire (BSIP) to be approved by end of October – sets out our collective ambition with operators
  - Funding Allocations will follow – criteria not yet clear
  - Enhanced Partnership to be signed by end of March '22
  - Considerable on-going dialogue with operators and neighbouring LTAs
  - Wider consultation/engagement required

# Starting Point – Strong Base

- Steady passenger numbers against national decline
- Contactless payments; Wi-fi; next stop announcements, USB charging
- Real Time information 550+ screens
- Solent Go – multi-operator ticket app and smartcard
- Tap on – tap off with capped fares – trials underway
- Stagecoach Gold 24/7 commercial bus service (pre-Covid)
- Existing Quality Bus Corridors
  
- BUT
- ....but rural areas are difficult to serve cost-effectively
- ....revenue funding for bus subsidy is limited and under pressure



# Starting Point – Relationships

- Positive relationships with operators Stagecoach, Go Ahead and First – history of shared investment and passenger growth
- Joint project delivery with our cross-boundary neighbours
  - Southampton & Portsmouth City Region ‘Transforming Cities Fund’ projects – focus on rapid bus corridors
  - Solent Transport’s ‘Future Transport Zone’
  - Isle of Wight BSIP
- Shared procurement frameworks – Real Time Information & Bus Stop infrastructure











# Hampshire BSIP – Main Themes

- BSIP being drafted for Exec Member Decision in October
- Commitments and targets around the Government's key areas – bus priority; increased frequencies, span of day and days of the week; ticketing; information provision; better value fares; rural transport innovation; zero-emission buses, etc.
- Key aspect for bus operators - Start the cycle of growth by speeding up buses
- Stay close to our existing successful partnership formula
- Strike a balance between ambition and deliverability
- Deliver infrastructure that enables operators to expand the commercial network

# Bus Back Better – Some Concerns

- **Long term revenue funding implications**
- New passenger infrastructure, expansion of Real Time Information etc.
- Integrated Ticketing schemes
- Rural transport innovation – Demand Responsive Transport, cliff-edge funding
- Running the Enhanced Partnership – annual updates, consultation, publish progress against targets
- Bus Subsidy and ‘Balancing the Budget’ programme

# Linked Projects

- Portsmouth and Southampton Transforming Cities Fund
- Active Travel Schemes – Walking & Cycling
- Solent Transport - Future Transport Zone
- HCC Balancing the Budget Programme for 2023

# Questions?