

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Executive Decision Record

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Lead Member for Economy, Transport and Environment
<b>Date:</b>	28 October 2021
<b>Title:</b>	Bus Service Improvement Plan
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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### 1. The decision:

- 1.1 That the Executive Lead Member for Economy, Transport and Environment approves the Hampshire Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), as detailed within and appended to the supporting report, as the local response to “Bus Back Better”, the national bus strategy.
- 1.2 That authority is delegated to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment to make the necessary arrangements to formally submit the BSIP to the Government by the end of October 2021.
- 1.3 That the Executive Lead Member for Economy, Transport and Environment gives approval for a consultation exercise to be carried out over the coming months as part of the BSIP and Enhanced Partnership requirements, and delegates authority to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment to finalise the arrangements and carry out the consultation in line with Enhanced Partnership guidance issued by the Department for Transport.

### 2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1. A new national bus strategy called “Bus Back Better” was issued by the Government in March 2021. Through a range of improvements, the strategy aims to grow the number of passengers using local bus services contributing to both the decarbonisation and levelling up agendas.
- 2.2. The strategy promises future increases in funding for bus measures, subject to the outcome of the next Government Comprehensive Spending Review. This funding is conditional on Local Transport Authorities (LTAs) preparing a Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) by the end of October 2021 demonstrating both their ambition and the steps they propose to take to improve local bus services.

2.3. The level of ambition set out in the Hampshire BSIP, detailed in this report and appendices, will put the County Council in a strong position to be able to access a share of expected future national funding for improving bus services.

**3. Other options considered and rejected:**

3.1. Not to produce a BSIP – local authorities who do not publish a BSIP for their LTA area by 31 October 2021 will not only lose out on future funding opportunities arising from £3billion of “Bus Back Better” funding but also the Bus Recovery Grant (replacing the Covid-19 Bus Services Support Grant) and the reformed Bus Services Operators Grant (BSOG), over £1million pa of which makes up the core local bus budget in Hampshire.

**4. Conflicts of interest:**

4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker:

4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted:

**5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: none.**

**6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.**

**7. Statement from the Decision Maker:**

I thank Phil Gagg from Winchester Action on Climate Change for attending and speaking at my Decision Day today.

**Approved by:**

**Date:**

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**Executive Lead Member for Economy, Transport and Environment  
Councillor Rob Humby**

**28 October 2021**