

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Lead Member for Universal Services
Date:	18 September 2023
Title:	Bus Service Improvement Plan Plus
Report From:	Director of Universal Services

Contact name: Andrew Wilson

Tel: 07718 146174

Email: andrew.wilson@hants.gov.uk

1. The decision:

- 1.1. That the Executive Lead Member for Universal Services gives approval to enter into the necessary contractual arrangements, in consultation with the Head of Legal Services, for receipt of the County Council's allocation of £7,158,924 Department for Transport (DfT) Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) Plus grant funding for 2023/2024 and 2024/2025.
- 1.2. That the funding be allocated to measures that will support and improve local bus services and associated infrastructure, consistent with the objectives set out in Hampshire's BSIP.
- 1.3. That the Executive Lead Member for Universal Services gives authority to spend and enter into contractual arrangements (in consultation with the Head of Legal Services) with transport operators in Hampshire in accordance with the principle set out in 1.2 above, up to the value of the BSIP Plus grant awarded to the County Council by the Department for Transport (DfT).
- 1.4. That the Executive Lead Member for Universal Services delegates authority to the Director of Universal Services, in consultation with the Executive Lead Member for Universal Services and the Head of Legal Services, to determine the principles for the award of the funding which will be allocated to support the objectives of the Hampshire BSIP.
- 1.5. That the Executive Lead Member for Universal Services notes the terms of the BSIP funding attached to the County Council's allocation of £7,158,924 Department for Transport (DfT) Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) Plus grant funding for 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 as set out in the Exempt Appendix, and agrees they are acceptable.

2. Reasons for the decisions:

- 2.1. The County Council has been allocated £3,579,462 of 'BSIP Plus' funding by DfT for 2023/24 and the same amount for 2024/25, totalling £7,158,924. This funding is to deliver measures that will help to maintain the existing bus network, improve bus services and provide better bus infrastructure as described in Hampshire's BSIP.

2.2. Such improvements will safeguard existing routes for the duration of the funding period and where there is a commercial business case, provide better bus services for Hampshire’s residents and visitors, encourage more people to travel by public transport and therefore contribute to Hampshire County Council’s strategic objectives around economic growth, accessibility, climate change and air quality. Better bus services will help people to live safe, healthy, independent lives.

2.3. It is a condition of the BSIP Plus funding that Local Transport Authority (LTA) bus budgets are maintained at least at the same level as the BSIP+ funding is additional to previously agreed council budgets. The Memorandum of Understanding between the DfT and the County Council also states that any if concessionary travel reimbursements are reduced, the corresponding budget must be reinvested into other bus measures.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

3.1. DfT’s BSIP Plus funding is ringfenced to maintaining the existing bus network and to the delivery of bus improvement measures contained within Hampshire’s BSIP, so the funding cannot be spent on other projects.

3.2. The County Council could choose to decline this funding. This option has been rejected due to the opportunity this funding presents to invest in and boost Hampshire’s bus network for the residents of 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 Councillor Jackie Porter for attending and speaking at my Decision Day today.

Approved by: ----- Executive Lead Member for Universal Services Councillor Nick Adams-King	Date: 18 September 2023
--	--