

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Executive Decision Record

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Lead Member for Economy, Transport and Environment
<b>Date:</b>	10 March 2022
<b>Title:</b>	Hampshire's Bus Enhanced Partnership Plan & Scheme
<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 Enhanced Partnership Plan (EP Plan) and Hampshire Enhanced Partnership Scheme (EP Scheme), as detailed within, and appended to the supporting report, as the local response to "Bus Back Better", the National Bus Strategy, building on the Hampshire Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) that was approved in October 2021.
- 1.2 That authority is delegated to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment to make the necessary arrangements to formally 'make' the EP Plan and EP Scheme in line with Government guidance, to include establishing the governance structure for the Enhanced Partnership.

### 2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1. The National Bus Strategy 'Bus Back Better' was published in March 2021. The strategy aims to increase the number of people using buses through a range of improvements to bus infrastructure and services. In order to be eligible for government funding streams related to buses, Local Transport Authorities must adopt either Enhanced Partnerships with operators or introduce bus franchising.
- 2.2. The level of ambition set out in Hampshire's Bus Service Improvement Plan will place the County Council in a strong position to access a share of government funding for maintaining and improving bus services.

### 3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. Not to enter into an EP Plan and Scheme. This was rejected because Local Transport Authorities and operators who do not enter into these schemes would not be eligible for a number of funding streams, which would have a detrimental impact on Hampshire's Local Bus network.

3.2. Franchising arrangements were not pursued due to the existing strong partnership arrangements in place in Hampshire between bus operators and the County Council, which have delivered significant investment in the network and passenger growth over the last ten years, bucking the national trend. Franchising, which involves lengthy and expensive processes, would be seen as a last resort if the formal Enhanced Partnership arrangements cannot deliver the ambition set out in the Bus Service Improvement Plan.

**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:**

<b>Approved by:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
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<b>Executive Lead Member for Economy, Transport and Environment Councillor Rob Humby</b>	