

# Notes of West Berkshire Enhanced Partnership Forum

## Monday 25 April 2022. Forum No. 1

Present were representatives of:

- Bus Companies (Go Ahead, Reading Buses)
- Community Transport Providers (Carebus, Volunteer Centre West Berkshire)
- Members of Parliament (Newbury)
- Neighbouring Local Authorities (Hampshire, Oxfordshire, Reading, Wiltshire, Wokingham)
- West Berkshire Council (Network Management, Transport Services, Service Director)

The Service Director for Environment at West Berkshire Council chaired the meeting.

The initial indication from the Department for Transport is that funding of approximately £2.6m will be allocated to West Berkshire Council for the period 2022/23 to 2024/25. This will be split between capital expenditure (£1.8m, skewed towards the end of the programme), and revenue expenditure (£0.8m, split equally over the three years).

A discussion took place amongst those present into the proposed capital and revenue schemes that that DfT funding could provide.

Two variations were proposed to the initial West Berkshire Enhanced Partnership Scheme, and both variations were approved:

- To amend the wording of the first measure on page 17 to read: “Council funding for supported bus services will not be reduced in the absence of consultation and without analysing the impact on the users of the service.”
- For the Council to agree a programme of works in conjunction with operators to secure the indicative DfT funding as proposed in the letter of 4 April 2022, and to amend the EP Scheme accordingly.

Specific issues raised were:

- A lot of tight deadlines from the DfT must be met in the coming months.
- Oxfordshire County Council is looking favourably into funding the Newbury to Harwell service with its DfT funding allocation and developer contributions.
- Reading Borough Council is proposing to use much of its DfT revenue funding on a reduced fares initiative.
- Wiltshire Council is looking at converting the services between Marlborough and Hungerford into a demand responsive service.

Next meeting provisionally suggested for September 2022.

The list of schemes submitted to the DfT following the meeting are shown in the tables below. These will be subject to DfT scrutiny, and may need to be amended before any funding is released.

West Berkshire Council BSIP funding summary – submitted 9 May 2022

Scheme ID	Scheme Title	Details
<b>Bus priority infrastructure</b>		
BP1	Pangbourne Bus Turning Circle	Facility for turning buses. Feasibility: 2022/23. Implementation: 2023/24.
BP2	Atherton Road, Hungerford	Redesign road. Complete in 2022/23.
BP3	Robin Hood Roundabout, Newbury	In particular B4009 Shaw Rd and A4 London Rd. Feasibility: 2022/23. Implementation: early 2024/25.
BP4	Bath Road, Calcot	Improvements along A4 and service 26 route. Feasibility: 2023/24. Implementation: when possible / if sufficient funding.
BP5	Bus congestion hotspots	List in 2021 BSIP, section 4.5.3. Implement a number each year.
<b>Other infrastructure</b>		
OI1	Passenger waiting environment	Various measures including RTPI, bus shelters and improved bus stop safety.
<b>Fares support and ticketing reform</b>		
FT1	Simplified fares and improved ticketing	Various measures including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting RBC fares reduction scheme in Eastern Area (summer 2022?)</li> <li>Adopting similar scheme across rest of West Berkshire (summer 2022?)</li> <li>Expand Connect availability (September 2022?)</li> <li>Introduce Connect Newbury / Thatcham urban day ticket (summer 2022)</li> <li>Introduce Connect family tickets (summer 2022)</li> <li>Introduce fare capping with Tap-on, Tap-off (2023)</li> <li>Consistent approach to young people's fares (start September 2022).</li> </ul>
<b>Bus service support</b>		
BS1	Downlands transport	Demand responsive transport replacing 5, 5a, 5c. Tenders issued by December 2022.
BS2	Pangbourne transport	Improved frequency between Pangbourne and Reading and DRT in North East of West Berkshire. Delivery to coincide with BP1 timescales.
BS3	Newbury to Harwell	New link. To start in 2022/23.
BS4	Existing bus service support	Continue to maintain existing Council funding.
<b>Marketing</b>		Linked to other schemes
<b>EP/franchising delivery: LTA</b>		
ST1	Senior Transport Officer (Bus)	New role to oversee the BSIP / EP programme.
ST2	Transport Officer (Bus Improvement Programme)	New role to keep programme on track, and to lead on documentation, targets, and consultation.

<b>Scheme ID</b>	<b>Scheme Title</b>	<b>Details</b>
ST3	Transport Officer (Capital Scheme Implementation)	New role to implement capital schemes.
<b>Other</b>		
CT1	Community transport support	Continue to maintain existing Council funding.

#### Funding table

<b>Scheme ID</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>2022/23 (£000)</b>		<b>2023/24 (£000)</b>		<b>2024/25 (£000)</b>		<b>Total (£000)</b>	
		<b>Rev</b>	<b>Cap</b>	<b>Rev</b>	<b>Cap</b>	<b>Rev</b>	<b>Cap</b>	<b>Rev</b>	<b>Cap</b>
BP1	DfT – BSIP		20		190				<b>210</b>
BP2			25						<b>25</b>
BP3			20		170		110		<b>300</b>
BP4					30		360		<b>390</b>
BP5				91		66		113	
OI1	Council		50		50		50		<b>150</b>
FT1	DfT –	152	80	63	20	36		<b>251</b>	<b>100</b>
BS1	BSIP	46	130	70		70		<b>186</b>	<b>130</b>
BS2				53	110	88		<b>141</b>	<b>110</b>
BS3			25		35		25		<b>85</b>
BS4	Others (inc. Council, s106)	1,800		1,966		1,966		<b>5,731</b>	
ST1	Council	55		58		60		<b>174</b>	
ST2	DfT –	48		50		52		<b>150</b>	
ST3	BSIP		80		83		86		<b>249</b>
CT1	Council, CIL	55	50	55		55	50	<b>165</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2,182</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>2,349</b>	<b>719</b>	<b>2,351</b>	<b>769</b>	<b>6,883</b>	<b>2,034</b>
	DfT – BSIP	<b>271</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>669</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>669</b>	<b>813</b>	<b>1,784</b>
	Others	<b>1,911</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,079</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>2,081</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>6,070</b>	<b>250</b>