



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Meeting of an **INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION** will be held in First Floor 11 - Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham RG40 1BN on **WEDNESDAY 13 APRIL 2022 AT 6.00 PM**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susan Parsonage', with a long, sweeping tail.

Susan Parsonage
Chief Executive
Published on 5 April 2022

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WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Our Vision

A great place to live, learn, work and grow and a great place to do business

Enriching Lives

- Champion outstanding education and enable our children and young people to achieve their full potential, regardless of their background.
- Support our residents to lead happy, healthy lives and provide access to good leisure facilities to complement an active lifestyle.
- Engage and involve our communities through arts and culture and create a sense of identity which people feel part of.
- Support growth in our local economy and help to build business.

Safe, Strong, Communities

- Protect and safeguard our children, young and vulnerable people.
- Offer quality care and support, at the right time, to prevent the need for long term care.
- Nurture communities and help them to thrive.
- Ensure our borough and communities remain safe for all.

A Clean and Green Borough

- Do all we can to become carbon neutral and sustainable for the future.
- Protect our borough, keep it clean and enhance our green areas.
- Reduce our waste, improve biodiversity and increase recycling.
- Connect our parks and open spaces with green cycleways.

Right Homes, Right Places

- Offer quality, affordable, sustainable homes fit for the future.
- Build our fair share of housing with the right infrastructure to support and enable our borough to grow.
- Protect our unique places and preserve our natural environment.
- Help with your housing needs and support people to live independently in their own homes.

Keeping the Borough Moving

- Maintain and improve our roads, footpaths and cycleways.
- Tackle traffic congestion, minimise delays and disruptions.
- Enable safe and sustainable travel around the borough with good transport infrastructure.
- Promote healthy alternative travel options and support our partners to offer affordable, accessible public transport with good network links.

Changing the Way We Work for You

- Be relentlessly customer focussed.
- Work with our partners to provide efficient, effective, joined up services which are focussed around you.
- Communicate better with you, owning issues, updating on progress and responding appropriately as well as promoting what is happening in our Borough.
- Drive innovative digital ways of working that will connect our communities, businesses and customers to our services in a way that suits their needs.

For consideration by

Pauline Jorgensen, Executive Member for Highways and Transport

Officers Present

Rebecca Brooks, Senior Transport Planner

Callum Wernham, Democratic & Electoral Services Specialist

IMD NO.	WARD	SUBJECT	
IMD 2022/06	None Specific	CONSULTATION RESPONSE TO ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR & MAIDENHEAD'S ENHANCED PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT	5 - 10

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Agenda Item IMD6

INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION

REFERENCE IMD: 2022/06

TITLE	Consultation Response to Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead's Enhanced Partnership Agreement
DECISION TO BE MADE BY	Executive Member for Highways and Transport - Pauline Jorgensen
DATE, MEETING ROOM and TIME	Wednesday 13 April 2022 FF11 at 18:00
WARD	None specific
DIRECTOR / KEY OFFICER	Director, Place and Growth - Steve Moore

PURPOSE OF REPORT (Inc Strategic Outcomes)

The National Bus Strategy advised every Local Transport Authority in England, outside of London, to create an Enhanced Partnership (EP) Agreement with local bus operators as a basis for improving bus services. An EP is a legal agreement which has several statutory processes to go through, including a statutory consultation, before it can be legally made.

The purpose of this report is to gain approval for Wokingham Borough Council's response to Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead's Enhanced Partnership Agreement for local bus services.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Executive Member for Highways and Transport approve the Council's response to Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead's Enhanced Partnership Agreement for local bus services, as set out in Annex A to the report.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) is a statutory consultee for Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead (RBWM) in the process of making an Enhanced Partnership.

RBWM published their Enhanced Partnership Agreement for Statutory Consultation on 15th March 2022 for a four-week period, until 12th April 2022. The response attached as Annex A has been submitted on behalf of Wokingham Borough Council, subject to Individual Executive Member Approval.

Background

WBC is supportive of the shared objectives of increasing local bus travel and reducing carbon emissions from transport and therefore welcome the opportunity to work with RBWM to provide a local bus network which meets the needs of residents of both our boroughs and across the wider Berkshire area.

The guiding principles of RBWM's EP Plan are as follows:

- **Partnership:** RBWM recognises the need to work in partnership with residents, businesses, and stakeholders to deliver the objectives of their EP Plan and Scheme.
- **Quality:** to enable the local bus network to compete with other modes, RBWM identifies that the local bus network needs to provide a quality service which is affordable, accessible, reliable, and available.
- **Responsive:** RBWM is looking to work in partnership with local bus operators and other stakeholders to make appropriate use of data in responding to changing demands for travel.
- **Monitoring and reporting:** a monitoring plan will be developed and deployed to allow the impact of investment to be understood and to allow for continuous improvement in any future developments of their EP.

The key objectives of RBWM's EP Plan are for:

- A quality local bus service that provides accessibility to the widest cross section of the population
- Buses that provide people with an option to access work, services, and leisure activities
- Operators who offer and promote affordable fares and multi-operator ticketing
- A bus network that encourages integration with other modes of transport
- Information being widely available and accessible to all users
- Bus infrastructure, which is contemporary, well-maintained, and consistent

RBWM's Enhanced Partnership Scheme covers the whole administrative area of the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead. The EP looks to address the EP Plan's objectives through a series of short-term (<12 months) and medium-term (12-36 months) facilities and measures. In summary these are:

- The creation of a RBWM Buses website
- Investment in technology to improve bus punctuality data
- Reviewing RBWM's bus network
- The creation of passenger charter, and
- Continued support for existing services

Obligations on local bus operators will mean all local bus service, unless exempt, will need to be provided by Euro VI, Hybrid or Zero Emissions vehicles from 1st April 2022. By 31st March 2030 all local bus services, unless exempt will need to support CCTV, free onboard Wi-Fi, free onboard USB power provision, automatic vehicle location equipment, on-board audio announcements, onboard visual next stop displays and have the ability for onboard contactless ticketing. A commitment is also made to achieving an improvement on the current offer of ticket acceptance by 31st March 2023.

An EP Forum is proposed for the purpose of providing opportunities to discuss issues affecting the RBWM and the wider Berkshire bus network. WBC is fully supportive of joint working and as such welcomes the opportunity to be part of the RBWM EP Forum.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe funding pressures, particularly in the face of the COVID-19 crisis. It is therefore imperative that Council resources are focused on the vulnerable and on its highest priorities.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	n/a	n/a	n/a

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision
None

Cross-Council Implications
Cross-Council implications would be considered through Wokingham Borough Council's Enhanced Partnership Agreement.

Public Sector Equality Duty
An equalities assessment is not required as this IEMD relates to a legal agreement which the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead will be making and implementing within the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead. Any joint schemes which affect Wokingham Borough would be subject to Wokingham Borough Council's Enhanced Partnership Agreement and therefore subject to the related equalities assessment.

SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES	
Director – Resources and Assets	Any comments received will be advised at the meeting
Monitoring Officer	Any comments received will be advised at the meeting
Leader of the Council	Any comments received will be advised at the meeting

List of Background Papers
None

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Customer Services Tel: 0118 908 8302
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Date: 29th March 2022



**WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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RE: Consultation Response to Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead's Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme

Thank you for providing Wokingham Borough Council with the opportunity to comment on the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead's (RBWM) Enhanced Partnership (EP) Agreement.

Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) is keen to ensure a coordinated approach to the delivery of local bus services across Berkshire. Following the significant impact of the coronavirus pandemic and the lack of clarity around future government funding, we are particularly keen to support the shared objectives of increasing local bus travel and reducing carbon emissions from transport.

WBC welcomes the opportunity to engage with RBWM and be part of RBWM's Enhanced Partnership Forum for the purpose of coordinating travel across Berkshire. WBC sees a need for a strategic view to network development as necessary for achieving an integrated network of sustainable travel across Berkshire, as well as a need for formal engagement on matters such as fares and ticketing.

As you note there may be an opportunity to jointly explore a separate Berkshire wide forum in the future. WBC is fully supportive of joint working and as such would be supportive of a Berkshire Enhanced Partnership forum, where appropriate and subject to sufficient resources being available.

I trust the above comments are helpful to RBWM in the further development of your EP Agreement. WBC would be happy to engage further with RBWM before the EP is finalised through the statutory legal process as when necessary.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Brooks

Rebecca Brooks
Community Transport Manager

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