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Date: 21st February 2022



**WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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RE: Consultation Response to Bracknell Forest Borough Council’s Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme

Thank you for providing Wokingham Borough Council with the opportunity to comment on Bracknell Forest Borough Council’s (BFBC) Enhanced Partnership (EP) Agreement.

Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) is keen to ensure a coordinated approach to the delivery of local bus services across our respective boroughs. Following the significant impact of the coronavirus pandemic and the lack of clarity around future government funding, we particularly keen to support the shared objectives of ensuring efficiency, value, and confidence in the local bus network.

WBC would welcome the opportunity to engage with BFBC in the future development of your Enhanced Partnership Scheme. WBC would suggest that further consideration is given to more formal engagement with neighbouring authorities through the governance structure of the EP. WBC sees formal engagement on matters such as fares and ticketing as fundamental to achieving our shared objective of providing better value, and attractive local bus travel to all residents across both of our boroughs.

As you note there are also opportunities to jointly explore alternatives to traditional fixed line public transport routes. WBC would be fully supportive of opportunities for joint working, where appropriate and subject to funding. To enable effective and timely delivery of partnership working WBC would support the use of the variation mechanisms to implement appropriate facilities and measures, such as the undertaking of feasibility studies.

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

Yours sincerely,

RBrooks

Rebecca Brooks
Community Transport Manager

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