

THE NORTH EAST JOINT TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

TRANSPORT NORTH EAST

Notice that an Enhanced Partnership Plan and Enhanced Partnership Scheme have been made by the North East Joint Transport Committee

30 March 2023

Dear operator,

This is a notice to confirm that the North East Joint Transport Committee ("**NEJTC**") has made an Enhanced Partnership ("**EP**") Plan and an EP Scheme for the region, as required and set out in section 138G of the Transport Act 2000. Operators of qualifying local services were notified that the draft EP Plan and EP Scheme had been prepared on 9 December 2022. The operators' objection period ended on 10 January 2023 and no objections to the draft EP Plan and EP Scheme were received. Statutory consultation ran from 11 January 2023 to 8 February 2023, and following this, the EP Plan and EP Scheme have been made without modification. The EP Plan and the EP Scheme will come into effect on 2 April 2023.

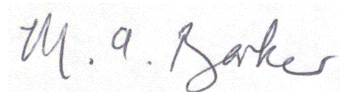
The EP Plan and EP Scheme can be found on the Transport North East website at [Enhanced Partnership and Bus Service Improvement Plan - Transport North East](#), however if you would like a hard copy please email buses@transportnortheast.gov.uk. The EP Plan and EP Scheme together work towards implementing the North East Bus Service Improvement Plan ("**BSIP**") for the region, to deliver better bus services for local people and wider local transport plan objectives, as set out in the overview appended to this notice at Appendix A.

You have been sent this notice in accordance with section 138G(5)(b) of the Transport Act 2000, as you are an operator of a local service(s) who the NEJTC considers would be affected by the EP Scheme.

For further information, please contact buses@transportnortheast.gov.uk

Thank you for your collaboration on the development of the EP Plan and EP Scheme. Transport North East looks forward to continuing to work with North East operators to deliver services and improve the network for the benefit of passengers across the region.

Signed:



Mike Barker
Solicitor to the Council

Dated: 30 March 2023

North East Combined Authority for and on behalf of the North East Joint Transport Committee

APPENDIX A: OVERVIEW OF BSIP OBJECTIVES AND EP APPROACH

BSIP OBJECTIVES	EP APPROACH
1. Repair the damage caused by Covid-19 to bus ridership numbers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and promote good standards of hygiene and cleanliness across bus fleets and public transport infrastructure. • Ensure that sufficient funding is available to maintain the current network and secure 'socially necessary' services once the Bus Recovery Grant ceases.
2. Grow bus patronage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve facilities and information provision onboard buses, in stations and at stops, and online. • Develop and introduce a new, regionwide logo for public transport complementary to existing operator brands. • Introduce more attractive and relevant ticketing options. • Expand and improve routes and services within the network, including new demand responsive services, as well as better connections beyond our boundaries.
3. Grow bus modal share	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand and improve routes and services within the network as well as better connections beyond our boundaries. • Introduce more attractive and relevant ticketing options. • Commit to and consult on infrastructure improvements which prioritise and promote the bus network as part of a multi-modal public transport network. • Develop and implement marketing campaigns to provide the bus network with increased public exposure.
4. Increase customer satisfaction amongst users of the bus network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve facilities and information provision onboard buses, in stations, at stops, and online. • Introduce more attractive and relevant ticketing options. • Expand and improve routes and services within the network as well as better connections beyond our boundaries. • Ensure staff have adequate training to assist with journey planning and maintain high standards, as well as creating new roles in order to facilitate the rollout of improvements. • Develop and implement a Bus Passenger Charter and network change processes with a view to establishing community engagement, accountability, and review at the heart of all improvements.

BSIP OBJECTIVES	EP APPROACH
5. Make buses faster, more punctual and more reliable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand and improve routes and services within the network as well as better connections beyond our boundaries. • Commit to and consult on infrastructure improvements which prioritise and promote the bus network. • Commit to targeted infrastructure interventions on particularly salient corridors / pinch points.
6. Make buses greener	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement changes to vehicles and supporting infrastructure pursuant to the region's green vision.