

# KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

**DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:**

David Brazier, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport

**DECISION NO:**

21/00087

For publication Yes

Key decision: No

**Subject Matter / Title of Decision:** Publication and Submission of the Pre-Funding Settlement Version of the Kent Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP)

**Decision:**

As Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, I agree to:

- Publish on the KCC website and submit to DfT the pre-settlement funding version of Kent's Bus Service Improvement Plan and
- Delegate to the Corporate Director, Growth, Environment and Transport, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport to approve any final amendments to reflect additional government guidance and non-material changes to the text of the Plan, prior to its publication.

**Reason(s) for decision:**

In March 2021 the Government published a National Bus Strategy (NBS) for England. In response, on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021, KCC published its stated intent to enter into negotiations with bus operators to form an Enhanced Partnership agreement to cover the operation of all public bus services in the County from April 2022.

To support EPs, all Local Transport Authorities (LTAs) are also obliged, by 31<sup>st</sup> October, to prepare and publish a Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) which sets the aspirations for KCC and its bus operators over the period of NBS funding and which also acts as a bidding document to support the initiatives developed as part of the BSIP. Failure to meet this deadline potentially jeopardises significant new and existing funding streams.

**Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:**

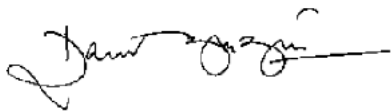
- Public consultation has been undertaken via Let's Talk Kent.
- Workshops have been conducted with District Councils and other stakeholders
- Two KCC Member briefings have been held.

This is an iterative process and further engagement through the same channels is proposed to review the BSIP in light of the funding settlement .

**Any alternatives considered and rejected:**

Not to comply with the requirements of the National Bus Strategy. As future funding for bus services is linked to compliance to the National Bus Strategy, non-compliance would, would put at risk access to both current and future funding for Kent's bus services.

**Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jan Ozi', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

21 October 2021

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signed

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date