KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY: **David Brazier, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport**	DECISION NO: 21/00116

For publication Yes

Key decision: YES

Subject Matter / Title of Decision
National Bus Strategy and Kent Bus Service Improvement Plan: Next Steps and implementation of Kent Enhanced Partnerships.

Decision:
As Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, I agree to support the proposed next steps and specifically the Executive Decision to form Enhanced Partnership Schemes.

Reason(s) for decision:
In March 2021, Government published a new National Bus Strategy which set out a blueprint for how Local Transport Authorities and Bus Operators should work together to recover from the impacts of the pandemic and then seek to improve all aspects of bus service provision. The National Bus Strategy places a requirement on Local Transport Authorities and Bus Operators have to form Enhanced Partnership Agreements governing all bus services in the Local Transport Authority area by 1 April 2022.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:
In response, following executive decisions by the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, on 28th June 2021 KCC published its stated intent to enter into negotiations with bus operators to form an Enhanced Partnership for Kent

On 29th October 2021, after extensive engagement with the public, various stakeholders, and Bus Operators KCC published and submitted the first version of its BSIP to the DfT.
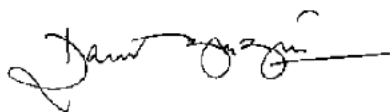
The proposed decision was discussed and endorsed by Members of the Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee at their meeting on 18 January.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:
Not to comply with the requirements of the National Bus Strategy which would jeopardise approximately £7m public transport funding from government and potentially access to future funding regimes.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:
None

17 February 2022

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signed

date