



Gloucestershire

COUNTY COUNCIL

NOTES OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE ENHANCED PARTNERSHIP MEETING

DATE: Friday January 26 January 2024 **TIME:** 11.00 am

VENUE: Clearwell Room - Shire Hall, Gloucester.

Present:

Board

Cllr Philip Robinson (Gloucestershire County Council)

Karen Coventry (representing Stagecoach)

Luke Marion (Pulham's Coaches - representing the smaller operators)

Supporting Staff:

James Heaney Regalado (Stagecoach)

Tom Main (Gloucestershire County Council)

Matthew Parker (Gloucestershire County Council)

David Taylor (Gloucestershire County Council)

Colin Chick (Gloucestershire County Council)

Jason Humm (Gloucestershire County Council)

Philip Williams (Gloucestershire County Council)

Apologies:

Rachel Gelliamassi (Stagecoach).

1. Welcome and confirmation of Board Members

Cllr Robinson welcomed Board Members and support staff to the Meeting, which commenced at 1100.

The Meeting confirmed Luke Marion's role as Board Member for the next two calendar years, representing the smaller operators which provided scheduled bus services within Gloucestershire.

2. Governance of the Board

It was agreed that David Taylor would take the minutes and record actions for this meeting,

it was also agreed that the Minutes would be published, next to the Enhanced Partnership document on the GCC website.

There was a discussion about the role of the Board, to be expressed in 'high-level aims.' It was suggested there should be another bullet point in the

proposed Terms of Reference to include 'enhancing the role of the bus in decision making.' Comments regarding the Terms of Reference were requested to be submitted by Friday 2nd February.

It was agreed that there should be four meetings of the Board in the first year. The draft Terms of Reference suggest at least two meetings per annum.

There was a related discussion about the role of the Forum, whether this could be considered to be the 'public expression' of the Enhanced Partnership.

There was discussion of the experience of the EP Forum in Oxfordshire. There was discussion about an early (March/April) Forum being called to set up Working Groups, with people being recruited to attend all meetings of the Groups, with the next Board meeting being called within four weeks. There should then be another Forum meeting later in the year.

3. Role of the Board

There was a discussion about what the Board should seek to achieve, and it was agreed there should be a mission statement.

The Stagecoach representative raised the issue of whether the Mission Statement should include 'bringing the bus into wider strategic decision making.'

It was suggested that something needed to be drafted - the Oxfordshire document should be shared – need something succinct and simple.

Action – to seek a copy of the Oxfordshire EP document.

There was a suggestion that the Board should aim to be the 'means of delivering' - marketing Gloucestershire as a place for investment in the bus network. This would need to include evidence of effective partnership.

It was noted that the Board needed to sign off / ratify certain decisions.

4. Role of the EP Forum

There was a long discussion around which constituent groups should be invited to the Forum. Suggestions included Passenger representatives, District Councils, Tourism groups, Accessibility advocates, such as disability groups – (Gloucester Sight Loss Council - Building Better Transport Links, was specifically mentioned), Active Travel groups, Gloucester Community Rail Partnership, the Youth Climate Change Group, Cross Border representatives, but perhaps only where there is a rationale for this, such as the BSIP round 3 funding available in Warwickshire, Worcestershire and Herefordshire which may present opportunities for improvements to cross border services.

There was a discussion about who should chair the Forum – Transport Focus does this in WECA. It was suggested that the Gloucestershire EP Forum should have a rotating chair.

It was agreed to make a start with a Stakeholder list.

5. Creation of Working Groups

There was a discussion prompted by the listing of five possible working groups in the supporting papers.

- I. Improving Infrastructure
- II. Making buses more attractive
- III. Encouraging Bus User representation and a Passenger Charter
- IV. Multi Operator ticketing
- V. Improving bus service provision

It was agreed that Group 1 needed to include Gloucestershire Highways and District Council representatives.

It was considered that Groups 2 and 3 could be combined, and possibly could be further combined with Group 5.

It was also considered that Group 4 required some bus user involvement. The Stagecoach representative asked whether this work-stream needed a budget.

It was agreed that Minutes would be needed to be produced by these groups to reflect the discussions. Terms of Reference for each group would also be required.

6. Information for Board Members

Five items were presented for the information of Board Members

BSIP+ bus service improvements. The first tranche (Cheltenham) had been delivered, with more route improvements to follow soon. Tenders had been issued for the three new 'Robin' demand-responsive services in rural areas.

It was suggested that the Board needed to know, which initiatives had been successful,

ZEBRA 2 – the bid had been submitted to the DfT, the result is expected in March, and a paper will go to April Cabinet to approve expenditure.

Funding situation – Whilst the 2024/25 budget situation is tight, GCC has some capital funding available for investments.

Major projects. Progress on the Mass Rapid Transit project was noted. The Arle Court Park and Ride project is to be launched in mid-July. High-level discussions are ongoing regarding the Cycle Spine project.

The BSIP review. This Document must be submitted to the DfT by 12th June 2024. The Board noted that much work is being undertaken currently to meet this deadline. There would be two rounds of consultation with stakeholders, including Bus Operators, firstly in February around the Vision, Objectives and proposed Programme, and then the final Draft BSIP document in April. Bus Operators would have two weeks to respond to each stage. It was noted that timescales were very tight.

7. Any other business

Stagecoach representatives advised that Elisabeth Tasker would replace Rachel Geliassasi as Managing Director, on an Interim basis. Karen Coventry will continue to act as EP Board Member.

8. Next meetings

It was suggested the next Board Meeting would be held towards the end of May, following a Forum meeting in April.

The meeting concluded at 1300.