



Email: Chris.wragg@westnorthants.gov.uk  
Our Ref:  
Date: 26 January 2022

Dear Sir/Madam,

## **NOTICE OF THE PREPARATION OF AN ENHANCED PARTNERSHIP PLAN AND SCHEME FOR NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

North Northamptonshire Council (the Council) gave approval to proceed with the development of an Enhanced Partnership 8 June 2021 and duly published formal notice as required and set out in section 138F of the Transport Act 2000.

Preparation of the North Northamptonshire Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme is the first step of the journey in delivering the aspirations in the North Northamptonshire Bus Service Improvement Plan. They comprise standard and practical 'business as usual' measures to ensure that they can be formally agreed with bus operators by 1 April 2022 in advance of additional funding being secured.

Operators of Local Bus Services have been consulted already, and have raised no objections, thereby satisfying the requirements of section 138F(1)(c) of the Transport Act 2000 and allowing the Enhanced Partnership to progress to this stage of consultation.

This notice satisfies the requirements set out in section 138F(1)(d) of the Transport Act 2000. It explains that the Council has prepared an Enhanced Partnership Plan (the Plan) and accompanying the Enhanced Partnership Scheme (the Scheme) covering the geographical area of North Northamptonshire.

### **What is proposed?**

As required under the legislation, the Council is required to consult Stakeholders on the proposal to make the Plan and Scheme that will deliver the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) so that they can offer views on the Plan and Scheme before it is finalised.

The Plan and Scheme together will help deliver the BSIP, delivering a bus network that will meet community need; will be delivered reliably and efficiently, and the bus offer is understood by the wider community not simply bus users, finally bus use is affordable and easy to use by all. If "Made" the Plan and Scheme will run for a minimum of 3 years from 30<sup>th</sup> April 2022.



The Enhanced Partnership Scheme sets out the obligations that fall on both the Council and Operators of services which are not Exempted Service as described in the Scheme document.

You can view a copy of the Plan and Scheme which is lodged on the Council's website, but copies are also attached to this email.

[Bus timetables, passes and improvements | North Northamptonshire Council \(northnorthants.gov.uk\)](http://www.northnorthants.gov.uk)

### **Who is being consulted?**

A copy of this notice has been sent to:

- All operators of local bus services who would be affected by these plans
- Organisations representing local passengers
- Other Local Transport Authorities affected by the proposals
- The Traffic Commissioner
- The Chief Officer of Police
- Transport Focus
- The Competition and Markets Authority
- The Local Enterprise Partnership
- Business Improvement Districts
- Major employers
- Universities and further education colleges
- Parish Councils
- Through the Council's website, the wider public have opportunity to comment, although they were directly engaged in the preparation of the Bus Service Improvement Plan, which this Enhanced Partnership seeks to progress.

### **You are invited to make comment on these proposals**

In particular you are invited to respond to the following questions, having regard to the Plan and Scheme provided:

1. Certain bus services are exempt from the Plan, in summary these are those that mainly operate outside of the Council area, or do not operate as normal timetabled bus services that would be used by the general public. Do you think this focuses on the right bus services?
2. The measures set out in the Plan for the Council are described in Tables 3.1 and 3.2, these are the priorities for the first 3 years. Some of these are conditional upon funding being secured. Is there anything missing from these tables? Are these the right priorities to attract people back on to the bus?
3. The bus Operator obligations are set out in Section 4. Do you agree with the proposals for investment in buses, ticketing and Information are the immediate priority for the first 3 years?



4. The delivery and performance of the Plan is overseen by a Wider Stakeholder Board, are the right people/organisations represented on this? If you feel someone is missing please let us know who and why.

Many of the comments in the consultation on the Bus Service Improvement Plan priorities in September and October 2021 relates the need to restore services to communities which have lost them. This does not form part of the Plan or Scheme because it is likely that such supported services would be secured through contracts between the Council and bus operators, rather than through the Enhanced Partnership.

### **How to comment**

Comments must be made in writing either by letter or email. **Representations must be sent by email to:**

[david.young@scptransport.co.uk](mailto:david.young@scptransport.co.uk) or [chris.wragg@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:chris.wragg@westnorthants.gov.uk)

**or by post to:**

North Northamptonshire Council  
c/o SCP – attn David Young  
10 South Parade  
Leeds LS1 5QS

**Representations must be received no later than close Friday 25 February 2022.**

To allow you to understand more about the proposals, and ask questions before submitting your comments, we will be holding a Webinar on the North Northamptonshire Enhanced Partnership proposals on Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> February at 10am. If you would like to attend the webinar, please e-mail me at [chris.wragg@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:chris.wragg@westnorthants.gov.uk) so you can be sent the appointment.

Yours faithfully

Chris Wragg  
Transportation and Development Manager