

IN THE MATTER OF THE BUS SERVICES ACT 2017

AND THE TRANSPORT ACT 2000 S138F(1)(d)

WEST BERKSHIRE LOCAL TRANSPORT AUTHORITY [LTA]

NOTICE THAT WEST BERKSHIRE LTA PROPOSE TO MAKE AN ENHANCED PARTNERSHIP PLAN AND SCHEME

By Delegated Decision of the Service Director Environment, dated 28th June, 2021, West Berkshire LTA gave its approval to proceed with the development of an Enhanced Partnership. The commencement of this was confirmed through the Notice of Intention to prepare an Enhanced Partnership Plan and accompanying Enhanced Partnership Schemes [EP] as required and set out in section 138F of the Transport Act 2000 and published on the same date.

An EP is an agreement that enables Local Authorities and Operators to set shared aims with regard to improving bus services.

The Proposed Enhanced Partnership Plan will cover the entire geographical area of West Berkshire Council.

The Bus Services Act 2017 amended the Transport Act 2000 to provide the LTA with powers to reform the bus market in West Berkshire and these provisions provide for new types of Partnership Schemes in West Berkshire. Pursuant to this, the West Berkshire Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme has been prepared.

Operators of Qualifying Local Services were notified on 17th December, 2021 of the Prepared Plan and Scheme. By S138F(5)(a) and (b) the LTA may not make the EP Plan and Scheme if, within the period for objection a sufficient number of Operators of Qualifying Local Services in the area to which the Plan relates object to either the Plan and/or the Scheme.

The period for objection expired on Monday 17 January, 2022 at 12 noon.

No (or insufficient) objections having been received, TAKE NOTICE that West Berkshire LTA now propose to make the Plan and Scheme WITH A MODIFICATION DETAILED BELOW. The modified scheme can be viewed here:

<https://info.westberks.gov.uk/enhancedpartnership>

THE MODIFICATION TO THE PLAN AND SCHEME AS DETAILED BELOW IS PROPOSED:

The wording in Annex A of the [Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme](#) page 17 where it is to be amended by the addition of the words in red.

MEASURES PROVIDED	TIMESCALE
Council funding for supported bus services will not be reduced in the absence of consultation . The Council will follow available procurement routes to maintain appropriate service provision, subject to sufficient funding being available.	From commencement of the Scheme for a period of at least 10 years.

The modification to the Plan and Scheme will trigger a further 28-day operator objection period which will expire on Thursday 24 March, 2022 at 12 noon.

TO : ALL PSV BUS OPERATORS

TO : ALL STATUTORY CONSULTEES UNDER S138F (6) AND (7)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND TO OBJECT TO THE MODIFICATION CONTACT:

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WEST BERKSHIRE LTA

24TH FEBRUARY, 2022