

Record of Delegated Executive Decision(s)

1. Subject of decision

Enhanced Bus Partnership

2. Name and Title of Decision Maker

Cllr Carl Johnson, Deputy Mayor

3. Details of any Conflict of Interest and any Dispensation granted in respect of such Interest

None

4. Executive summary (To be taken from written report)

Cabinet in September 2021 agreed fully to support and endorse the establishment of an Enhanced Partnership (EP) for bus services in the North East. Through its National Bus Strategy, the Government has stipulated that areas must establish an EP in order to receive ongoing Government funding for bus services. Prior to being finalised, the EP plan and one or more EP schemes must undergo first the 'Objection Period', giving local bus operators the opportunity to object to aspects of the documents, and then a period of statutory consultation.

In November 2021, Cabinet noted that the required next steps in the EP process and authorised the Deputy Mayor, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, the Director of Regeneration and Economic Development, the Director of Environment, Housing and Leisure (as it then was), the Director of Resources and the Director of Law and Governance (as it then was) to agree the draft EP plan and scheme for consultation. To reflect the current senior management structure the Deputy Mayor is now required to consult with the Assistant Chief Executive in addition to the Director of Regeneration and Economic Development and the Director of Resources.

The North East Joint Transport Committee (JTC) on 15 November 2022 agreed the proposed EP plan and scheme for the Objection Period and statutory consultation, and gave delegated authority for the documents to be amended following the Objection Period and prior to the statutory consultation.

While the JTC discharges functions on behalf of the local transport authorities, namely, the North East Combined Authority and the North of Tyne Combined Authority, aspects of the EP plan and scheme will relate to powers held by the Authority, as the highway authority for the borough.

Recognising the positive value of having an EP in place and allowing for the timescales necessary to meet Government deadlines, the Deputy Mayor, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources and appropriate Directors as set out above is invited to agree the draft Enhanced Partnership's plan and scheme insofar as they relate to the Authority's highway authority functions undergoing statutory consultation in accordance with the Transport Act 2000.

5. Alternative Options considered

Option 1 – To approve the recommendations as set out in paragraph 1.2.

Option 2 – Not to approve the recommendations as set out in paragraph 1.2.

6. Decision(s)

The Deputy Mayor has, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, the Director of Regeneration and Economic Development, the Director of Resources and the Assistant Chief Executive, agreed to the draft Enhanced Partnership's plan and scheme attached at Appendices 1 and 2 of the report being consulted on in accordance with the Transport Act 2000.

7. Reasons for the Decision(s)

To support the further development of an Enhanced Partnership, which represents an opportunity to deliver aspects of the Authority's and the region's transport objectives and to secure ongoing Government funding for bus services.

8. Date Decision Made

6 December 2022

To be completed by Democratic Services

9. Is this decision subject to call-in and if so expiry date of call-in period

Yes 5.00pm on Thursday 15 December 2022

10. Date of Publication

7 December 2022

11. Implementation Date (if decision not called in)

After 5.00pm on Thursday 15 December 2022