

EXECUTIVE DECISION

made by a Cabinet Member



REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY BY AN INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER

Executive Decision Reference Number – L66 23/24

Decision	
1	Title of decision: Department for Transport Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas scheme (ZEBRA 2): Addition to the Capital Programme
2	Decision maker (Cabinet member name and portfolio title): Councillor Tudor Evans OBE (Leader of Plymouth City Council)
3	Report author and contact details: Rosemary Starr (Sustainable Transport Manager) (T) 01752 305514 (E) rosemary.starr@plymouth.gov.uk
4	Decision to be taken: That the Leader: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Approves the addition of £10,342,976 to the Capital Programme awarded to Plymouth City Council by the Department for Transport from the Zero Emission Bus Regional Area 2 Fund; Approves the addition of £1,188,048 to the Capital Programme to be paid to Plymouth City Council by Cornwall Council for the delivery of the Plymouth Zero Emission Bus Regional Area 2 Fund project; Approves the addition of £750,000 Community Infrastructure Levy funding to the Capital Programme for the delivery of the Plymouth Zero Emission Bus Regional Area 2 Fund project.
5	Reasons for decision: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Approves the addition of £10,342,976 to the Capital Programme awarded to Plymouth City Council by the Department for Transport from the Zero Emission Bus Regional Area 2 Fund.</i> <p>Approval is needed to allow the funding which has been awarded to Plymouth City Council by the Department for Transport, from the Zero Emission Bus Regional Area 2 fund, to be added to the Council's Capital Programme in order to allow the project to be delivered.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Approves the addition of £1,188,048 to the Capital Programme to be paid to Plymouth City Council by Cornwall Council for the delivery of the Plymouth Zero Emission Bus Regional Area 2 Fund project.</i> <p>Cornwall Council are a partner to the Plymouth ZEBRA programme and have committed £1,188,048 towards the delivery of the project. Approval is needed to allow Cornwall Council's contribution to the Plymouth ZEBRA programme to be added to the capital programme in order to allow the project to be delivered.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Approves the addition of £750,000 Community Infrastructure Levy funding to the Capital Programme for the delivery of the Plymouth Zero Emission Bus Regional Area 2 Fund project.</i>

	<p>The £750,000 from the Community Infrastructure Fund is Plymouth City Council's contribution to the Plymouth ZEBRA project. Approval is therefore needed to add the contribution to the capital programme in order to allow the project to be delivered.</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Alternative options considered and rejected:</p> <p><i>1. To not add the funding awarded by the Department for Transport's Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas scheme (ZEBRA 2), for the Plymouth ZEBRA project, to the Capital Programme.</i></p> <p>This option has been rejected because it would prevent the Plymouth Zero Emission Bus Area Project (as described in Executive Decision L32 23/24) to be delivered.</p> <p>The project represents a transformational opportunity to modernise Plymouth's bus fleet, significantly advance the Council's commitment to decarbonise transport and boost bus patronage through a multi-million investment, by members of the statutory Plymouth Enhanced Partnership, in Zero Emission Buses (ZEBs) and hence needs to be delivered.</p> <p><i>2. To not add the funding contribution for the Plymouth ZEBRA 2 project, from Cornwall Council to the Capital Programme.</i></p> <p>Cornwall Council are a partner to the Plymouth ZEBRA programme and have committed £1,188,048 towards the delivery of the project. However, Plymouth City Council are the programme lead and as such are the accountable body for all aspects of the project. The Council therefore needs to receive and subsequently administer the financial contribution from the partnering Local Transport Authority.</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>Financial implications and risks:</p> <p>Plymouth City Council have been awarded £10,342,976 of capital funding from the Department for Transport's Zero Emission Bus Regional Area 2 (ZEBRA 2) fund of which £9,515,670 is core funding and a further £827,306 is contingency funding.</p> <p>The Department for Transport will retain the contingency fund to be drawn down if and when risks in the quantified risk assessment, included as part of the bid submission, materialise.</p> <p>The £10,342,976 will be profiled as follows: £7,472,897 in FY23/24 and £2,870,079 in FY24/25, subject to placement of orders for buses no later than January 2025. The contingency fund can be drawn down on a 50/50 proportional basis as and when quantified risks materialise.</p> <p>The agreed funds will be issued to the Authority as non-ringfenced grant payments under Section 31 of the Local Government Act, for capital expenditure as agreed in the bid.</p> <p>The total value of the Plymouth ZEBRA 2 programme is £31,873,110.</p>


<p>£10,342,976 is being provided by the Department for Transport. The remaining £21,530,134 of funding is being provided by Plymouth City Council, Plymouth Citybus / The Go-Ahead Group and Cornwall Council.</p> <p>The financial contribution by Plymouth City Council, which is being funded from the Community Infrastructure Fund levy, is £750,000. This is a fixed financial contribution.</p> <p>The financial contribution by Cornwall Council is £1,188,048. This is a fixed financial contribution.</p> <p>Should costs exceed those set out in the bid to the DfT's ZEBRA 2 fund, then under the terms and conditions of the Fund cost exceedances will need to be covered by local contributions. However, Local Transport Authorities (LTAs) were able to request grant funding to cover up to 50% of total contingency costs, for vehicles and infrastructure. The Plymouth submission therefore included a contingency fund, to reduce this risk with the Go-Ahead Group agreeing to cover any costs over and above those – for both vehicles and infrastructure – which are not covered by the bid.</p>				
8	<p>Is the decision a Key Decision? (please contact Democratic Support for further advice) Please type an X into the relevant boxes</p>	Yes	No	Per the Constitution, a key decision is one which:
			X	in the case of capital projects and contract awards, results in a new commitment to spend and/or save in excess of £3million in total
			X	in the case of revenue projects when the decision involves entering into new commitments and/or making new savings in excess of £1 million
			X	is significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the area of the local authority.
<p>If yes, date of publication of the notice in the Forward Plan of Key Decisions</p>				
9	<p>Please specify how this decision is linked to the Council's corporate plan/Plymouth Plan and/or the policy framework and/or the revenue/capital budget:</p>	<p>Investment in Zero Emission Buses which the Plymouth ZEBRA 2 project enables directly supports both the Corporate Plan and Plymouth Plan.</p> <p>Links to the Corporate Plan: -</p> <p>Investment in zero emission buses directly supports the city's mission to '[make] Plymouth a fairer, greener city where everyone does their bit.'</p> <p>As lead for the Plymouth ZEBRA 2 project, we are taking responsibility for the improvement of Plymouth's bus services. However, the project is co-</p>		

	<p>operative, involving Plymouth Citybus / The Go-Ahead Group and Cornwall Council and hence the Council are working closely with Plymouth's public transport providers, and neighbouring Local Transport Authorities, to deliver a bus network which helps to make Plymouth a great place to grow up and grow old.</p> <p>Links to the Plymouth Plan: -</p> <p>The Plymouth ZEBRA 2 project supports the delivery of the strategy set out within the Plymouth Plan and in particular policies HEA6 (Delivering a safe, accessible, sustainable and health enabling transport system) and GRO4 (Using transport investment to drive growth, and commitment to facilitate the use of sustainable transport modes).</p> <p>The Plymouth Plan seeks to help deliver a transport system that enables and encourages sustainable and active travel choices, provides good accessibility for the city's population to jobs and services, and supports a healthy environment. Through the ZEBRA 2 programme we will actively support the Plymouth Plan policy commitments to: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HEA6(1) [Use] the planning process to address air quality, carbon emissions and noise pollution. • HEA6(2) [Design] transport infrastructure projects to take full account of the needs of all users, the wider community and place shaping needs of the area, whilst also helping to minimise air quality, carbon emissions and noise pollution. • HEA6(7) [Invest] in and promot[e] the growth of an electric vehicle charging network and encouraging electric vehicle take-up and use and continuing to work with partners to harness the benefits of alternative fuel technologies in both land and marine environments. • HEA6(10) [Work] with regional partners, agencies and public transport operators to deliver an integrated transport system across all modes covering key locations within and adjoining the Plymouth Travel to Work Area. • GRO4 (1) [Continue] to support the High-Quality Public Transport Network and improve public and sustainable transport services through, where appropriate, subsidies and new infrastructure and
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GRO4(15) [Develop and deliver] targeted infrastructure interventions, consistent with the long-term vision and objectives for transport set out in the Joint Local Plan. <p>The ZEBRA 2 project also positively supports the delivery of the commitments within the Plan to help deliver targeted integrated transport measures to help support the sustainable growth of Plymouth, in accordance with the vision, objectives and policies of the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan. Specifically: SPT9 (6), which seeks to get the most out of our existing network and encourage behavioural change, and SPT9(9) (delivering transport projects which provide a safe and effective transport system).</p> <p>The ZEBRA 2 programme also allows the achievement of the aspirations of the Plymouth Bus Service Improvement Plan which is a delivery plan of the Plymouth Plan.</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>Please specify any direct environmental implications of the decision (carbon impact)</p>	<p>Cutting emissions from travel is a top priority for the city. Transport accounted for the largest part of our city’s CO₂e emissions in 2019 (29%) and transport as a sector is not decarbonising at the necessary pace to make Plymouth carbon neutral by 2030.</p> <p>Public transport, particularly buses, plays a key role in the net zero transition and the delivery of the City’s Bus Service Improvement Plan, in which the provision of zero emission buses feature, is a cornerstone of our city’s net zero strategy.</p> <p>The Plymouth ZEBRA 2 project will see the introduction of 50 Zero Emission Buses operating on routes either solely, or partly, within Plymouth. It will also improve the environmental performance of other bus routes in the city, which will not be served by the zero emission buses, through the cascade of more modern vehicles from those routes which are served by the zero emission buses.</p> <p>The investment in modern zero emission buses will not only have direct carbon benefits it is also anticipated that the investment in modern vehicles, a priority for Plymouth passengers as evidenced by the autumn 2023 passenger priority survey, will encourage modal shift</p>

		away from the private car, thereby further reducing carbon emissions.		
Urgent decisions				
I 1	Is the decision urgent and to be implemented immediately in the interests of the Council or the public? Please type an X into the relevant box	Yes		(If yes, please contact Democratic Support (democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk) for advice)
		No	X	(If no, go to section I 3a)
I 2a	Reason for urgency:			
I 2b	Scrutiny Chair Signature:		Date	
	Scrutiny Committee name:			
	Print Name:			
Consultation				
I 3a	Are any other Cabinet members' portfolios affected by the decision?	Yes	X	
		No		(If no go to section I 4)
I 3b	Which other Cabinet member's portfolio is affected by the decision?	Councillor Mark Coker, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Transport Councillor Tom Briars-Delve, Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change		
I 3c	Date Cabinet member consulted	11 April 2024		
I 4	Has any Cabinet member declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision? Please type an X into the relevant box	Yes		If yes, please discuss with the Monitoring Officer
		No	X	
I 5	Which Corporate Management Team member has been consulted?	Name	Anthony Payne	
		Job title	Strategic Director for Place	
		Date consulted	10 April 2024	
Sign-off				
I 6	Sign off codes from the relevant departments consulted:	Democratic Support (mandatory)	DS 140 23/24	

		Finance (mandatory)	DJN.24.25.003					
		Legal (mandatory)	LS/2429/kt/5424					
		Human Resources (if applicable)	Not applicable					
		Corporate property (if applicable)	Not applicable					
		Procurement (if applicable)	Not applicable					
Appendices								
17	Ref.	Title of appendix						
	A	Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas scheme (ZEBRA 2) - Briefing report for publication						
	B	Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas scheme (ZEBRA 2) – Business case						
	C	Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas scheme (ZEBRA 2) - Equalities Impact Assessment						
	D	Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas scheme (ZEBRA 2) - Climate Impact Assessment						
Confidential/exempt information								
18a	Do you need to include any confidential/exempt information? Please type an X into the relevant box	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>					
		No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
		If yes, prepare a second, confidential ('Part II') briefing report and indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box in 18b below. (Keep as much information as possible in the briefing report that will be in the public domain)						
		Exemption Paragraph Number						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
18b	Confidential/exempt briefing report title:							
Background Papers								
19	Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are <u>unpublished</u> works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based. If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.							
Title of background paper(s)		Exemption Paragraph Number						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Department for Transport Funding Award Notification			X				
Memorandum of Understanding Between Department for Transport and Plymouth City Council			X				
Cabinet Member Signature							
20	I agree the decision and confirm that it is not contrary to the Council's policy and budget framework, Corporate Plan or Budget. In taking this decision I have given due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act (2010) and those who do not. For further details please see the EIA attached.						
Signature			Date of decision	24 th April 2024			
Print Name	Cllr Tudor Evans						