

EXECUTIVE DECISION

made by a Council Officer



REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY BY AN INDIVIDUAL COUNCIL OFFICER

Executive Decision Reference Number – COD37 24/25


Decision	
1	Title of decision: Plymouth Enhanced Partnership Plan; Spring 2025 variation
2	Decision maker: Paul Barnard (Service Director for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure)
3	Report author and contact details: Rosemary Starr (Sustainable Transport Manager) (T) 01752 305514 (E) rosemary.starr@plymouth.gov.uk
4a	Decision to be taken: Approve the variation to, and subsequent publication of, the refreshed Plymouth Enhanced Partnership Plan, thereby updating the statutory Plan from April 2025.
4b	Reference number of original executive decision or date of original committee meeting where delegation was made: SPT17 23/24 - Bus Service Improvement Plans 2024 & 2025 (BSIP); Decision - SPT17 23/24 - Bus Service Improvement Plans 2024 & 2025 (BSIP) - Modern Council
5	Reason for decision: <i>1. Approves the variation to, and subsequent publication of, the refreshed Plymouth Enhanced Partnership Plan, thereby updating the statutory Plan from April 2025.</i> The Plymouth Enhanced Partnership Plan (EP Plan) was originally made on 1 April 2023, following the development of the first Plymouth Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), as part of the formation of the statutory Enhanced Partnership The Plymouth BSIP sets out the vision for bus services in Plymouth and the EP Plan reflects the objectives and commitments of the BSIP. It also outlines specific interventions to allow the delivery of the BSIP over the coming years. Following the publication of the latest Plymouth BSIP in 2024, the EP needs to be updated so that it remains aligned with the BSIP. Without this Decision the current EP Plan will remain in place as it is valid until revoked.
6	Alternative options considered and rejected: <i>1. Do not update the Plymouth Enhanced Partnership Plan</i> This option was rejected because the statutory Plymouth Enhanced Partnership is formed of two elements:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Enhanced Partnership Plan – which sets out the plans outlined in the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), providing the context for the proposed local bus service improvements and the Enhanced Partnership Scheme – which sets out in more detail how the plan objectives will be achieved through an agreed set of actions. <p>The EP Plan and Scheme is the legal framework to deliver the Plymouth Bus Service Improvement Plan and hence it is important that the EP Plan and Scheme are kept up to date. Not updating the EP Plan would mean that the published Plan would remain the April 2023 EP Plan which is now not reflective of the current (Summer 2024) BSIP. However, the current EP Plan is valid until revoked which is why this Decision is required.</p>																
7	<p>Financial implications and risks:</p> <p>Approval of the variation to the Plymouth Enhanced Partnership Plan places no additional financial demands on the Council. This is because the EP Plan itself is a policy document which sets out the plans outlined in the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), providing the context for the proposed local bus service improvements. The delivery plan for the Enhanced Partnership is the Bus Service Improvement Plan and the financial implications of delivering the BSIP are set out in separate Decisions (Decision - SPT09 23/24 - Plymouth Bus Service Improvement Plan Plus Programme (BSIP+) - Modern Council) and (Decision - L43 24/25 - 2025-26 Bus Grant for Plymouth City Council - Modern Council).</p> <p>Furthermore, the preparation and management of the EP Plan and is fully funded from the DfT Bus Capacity Grant, which is available to support the development of the Enhanced Partnership and associated Bus Service Improvement Plan, and the 2025/26 Bus Grant which is a consolidated fund and includes the 2025/26 Bus Capacity and Capability grant allocation.</p>																
8	<p>Legal Implications and risks: (for completion by Legal Officers)</p> <p>No legal implications or risks – JP</p>																
9a	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Is the decision a Key Decision? (please contact Democratic Support for further advice)</th> <th>Yes</th> <th>No</th> <th>Per the Constitution, a key decision is one which:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>X</td> <td>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</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>X</td> <td>in the case of revenue projects when the decision involves entering into new commitments and/or making new savings in excess of £1 million, annually</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>X</td> <td>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.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Is the decision a Key Decision? (please contact Democratic Support for further advice)	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 , annually			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.
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10	<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>The proposed variation to the Enhanced Partnership Plan directly supports both the Corporate Plan and Plymouth Plan.</p> <p>Links to the Corporate Plan: -</p> <p>The update of the EP Plan supports the city's mission to '[make] Plymouth a fairer, greener city where everyone does their bit.'</p> <p>As lead for the statutory Enhanced Partnership, of which the EP Plan is one of two elements, we are taking responsibility for the Enhanced Partnership. However, the delivery of the objectives of the EP Plan, through the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) is co-operative. We are, and will continue, to work closely with Plymouth's public transport providers, to deliver a bus network which helps to make Plymouth a great place to grow up and grow old and helps to minimise the cost of living crisis by providing a good value transport option which connects communities with employment, education, health and leisure opportunities.</p> <p>Links to the Plymouth Plan: -</p> <p>Provision of a comprehensive bus network, as set out in the Enhanced Partnership Plan, 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 development updated EP Plan we will actively support the Plymouth Plan policy commitments to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HEA6(5) [Deliver] a public transport system that everyone can use, including working with the bus companies to provide clear journey planning and timetable information. • GRO4 (1) Continuing to support the High Quality Public Transport Network and improve
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		<p>public and sustainable transport services through, where appropriate, subsidies and new infrastructure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GRO4 (2) Maintaining, improving and expanding the network of Park & Ride facilities and services and GRO4 (13) Use of smarter choices and travel planning to provide and promote travel choice, through the planning process <p>The EP Plan also supports the following policies of the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan:- SPT9 (5)5, where it states that the local Planning and Highway Authorities with key stakeholders will deliver: “realistic sustainable transport choices and increasing the integration of transport modes so that people have genuine alternative ways to travel.” 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>		
11	Please specify any direct environmental implications of the decision (carbon impact)	<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. The Enhanced Partnership (and associated Plan and Scheme) is therefore a cornerstone of our city’s net zero strategy. The delivery of an enhanced bus network offering cheaper fares, enhanced frequencies, improved reliability and greater convenience, enabled by the Enhanced Partnership and as set out in the EP Plan and Scheme, will encourage modal shift away from the private car, thereby reducing carbon emissions.</p>		
Urgent decisions				
12a	Is the decision urgent and to be implemented immediately in the interests of the Council or the public?	Yes		(If yes, please contact Democratic Support for advice)
		No	X	(If no, go to section 13a)
12b	Reason for urgency:			
12c	Scrutiny Chair signature:		Date	

	Scrutiny Committee name:			
	Print Name:			
Consultation				
I3a	Which Cabinet Member's portfolio does this decision relate to?	Councillor Mark Coker, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Transport		
I3b	Date Cabinet Member consulted	13 March 2025		
I3c	Are any other Cabinet members' portfolios affected by the decision?	Yes		
		No	X	(If no go to section I4)
I3d	Which other Cabinet member's portfolio is affected by the decision?			
I3e	Date other Cabinet member(s) consulted			
I4	Has any Cabinet member declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision?	Yes		If yes, please discuss with the Monitoring Officer
		No	X	
I5	Which Corporate Management Team member has been consulted?	Name	Paul Barnard	
		Job title	Service Director, Strategic Planning and Infrastructure	
		Date consulted	13 March 2025	
Sign-off				
I6	Sign off codes from the relevant departments consulted:	Democratic Support (mandatory)	JSI29 24/25	
		Finance (mandatory)	OW.24.25.061	
		Legal (mandatory)	LS/2960(52)/JP/270325	
		Human Resources (if applicable)	N/A	
		Corporate property (if applicable)	N/A	
		Procurement (if applicable)	N/A	
Appendices				
I7	Ref.	Title of appendix		
	A	Plymouth Enhanced Partnership Plan - Briefing report for publication		
	B	Plymouth Enhanced Partnership Plan - Equalities Impact Assessment		

	C	Plymouth Enhanced Partnership Plan – Spring 2025						
	D	Plymouth Enhanced Partnership Plan change log						
Confidential/exempt information								
18a	Do you need to include any confidential/exempt information?	Yes		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.				
		No	X					
		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
Council Officer 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 and those who do not. For further details please see the EIA attached.							
Signature				Date of decision		01 April 2025		
Print Name		Paul Barnard (Service Director, Strategic Planning and Infrastructure)						