

EXECUTIVE DECISION BRIEFING REPORT

Royal Parade Bus Improvement Scheme Business Case Change Request



1. SUMMARY

A decision is being sought to approve the Business Case Change Request to defer the Royal Parade Bus Improvement scheme programme and reallocate £248,058 of existing capital funding from the Department for Transport 2025/26 Bus Grant Funding.

2. BACKGROUND

The Royal Parade scheme aims to improve the public transport infrastructure, improve bus journey times and reduce congestion and emissions. The scheme works focus on the eastbound side of Royal Parade between Derry's Cross and St. Andrew's Cross and include:

- Redesigning the road with a shallow saw-tooth layout to increase the number of bus stops from 12 to 15, to prevent double stacking, unnecessary idling and improve air quality. This will improve bus manoeuvrability and safety by reducing the need for buses to reverse out and ensure passengers can get on and off from the pavement.
- Clearer and easier information about where and what bus to get in the new shelters and upgraded Real Time Passenger Information displays.
- New, bigger shelters to make it easier for people with pushchairs or wheelchairs to use them. They will have living roofs to support biodiversity.
- An upgraded toucan crossing at Armada Way for both pedestrians and cyclists.
- Average speed camera system to replace existing static cameras, supporting a safe environment for pedestrians.
- New granite paving to replace the existing concrete slabs that have become worn over time and are slippery in places.

3. PROPOSED CHANGES AND REASONS

Following further discussion with key stakeholders, it is proposed to adjust the construction programme timescales in order to minimise the impact on important city centre events. The request for funding to be reallocated from the existing capital programme supports the proposed deferred programme.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

4.1 Postpone construction works until later in the summer

This was rejected due to higher increased costs and reduced opportunity to complete and open up the areas close to the piazza in time for the Christmas event period.

4.2 Do not proceed with the scheme

This was rejected due to the Council's commitment to investing in the city's bus infrastructure to support public transport and delivering the Transforming Cities and Bus Grant programmes. The construction contract has also been awarded.

5. TIMESCALES

If the recommendation is approved, the Contractor will be asked to provide a revised programme for acceptance that will enable confirmation of a start date.