

**Notes and Actions of Bus Enhanced Partnership Board Meeting,
held at 1330 on Wednesday 8th October in Shire Hall, Gloucester.**

Item 1 and 2

Welcome and housekeeping

Introductions and declarations of interest

All those in the room and on Teams welcomed each other. No formal introductions needed.

In attendance:

EP Board: Cllr Roger Whyborn (Chair for this meeting), Chris Hanson (representing Stagecoach West (SW)), Luke Marion (representing Pulhams and smaller operators)
GCC Officers: Tom Main, Matt Parker, Thea Rumer, Orlagh Phipps, Luisa Senft-Hayward and Richard Adams.

Item 3

TOR

Tom Main summarised that since the election and Cllr Whyborn's appointment, all TORs in relation to the EP, Board, Forum and Working Groups, will be appropriately updated as needed. All in attendance agreed.

Item 4

Multi-operator ticketing

Cllr Whyborn summarised the hopes and options for a multi-operator tickets, including GCC's ambition. Some elements of previous discussions within the ticketing Working Group were clarified and elaborated on, including;

- Ticket must be available online (to be shown on operators' Apps) and to buy on buses
- Any operator can sell a ticket (if able to do depending on technology available)
- That drivers will check paper and App tickets for acceptance across operators
- That ticket price and revenue reapportionment will be discussed/documentated, taking into account...
 - Benefit to users, and to wider network and strategy
 - Agreed revenue reapportionment
 - Likely a county wide ticket
 - Current price of 3x£3 flat fare (likely 4x for return) means MOT should probably be placed to save compared to £9.
 - The connectivity provided by The Robin without the current difference fares has huge potential for GCC's DRT.
 - SW operations and legal, Pulhams operations and legal and GCC legal will all need to sign off on the proposal/agreement, which needs to include information on Competition Act/Block Exemption and re-imburement arrangement.
 - Then smaller operators will be informed and upskilled, with GCC setting up ETMs.

ACTION: ITU to prepare draft agreement for comment/edit from operators, to be sent from ITU before October 31st.

Together, a ticket brand will be designed, e.g. the Council creating the name and the two operators suggesting designs. Name will need to be OK and give correct top links on a Google search. A guide for drivers (so they can sell and moreover accept the ticket) needs to be circulated 7 to 10 working days before Go Live.

Go Live date is currently January 2026. All agreed on this ambitious date.

ACTION: In due course, ITU to discuss with Comms a name and/or a high pixel version of the GCC logo.

Note: there may be up to four services that are not covered by this ticket (On Fridays into Cheltenham, SC midlands, Cotswold Green, cross boundary).

Item 5

Express Bus

Concept was discussed, including the following points:

- Improved frequency
- The Council recognise the need for strategy and amount of consideration needed internally, hence the use of the working groups to push through actions.
- Chris needs meeting individually with both operators. Operators are happy to co-ordinate, fulfil roles as needed.
- SW have a view considering their network strategy, including working alongside and integrating with plans that exist commercially.
- There can be developments, including potential in the future of Health Services

ACTION: ITU and GCC to keep operators up to date with internal progress and decisions.

Item 6

BSIP Targets & Programme

The two documents that had been circulated were discussed, including comments as follows:

- Measures on the road are vital, for example a bus gates and work at specific locations.
- Bus priority is how targets of punctuality and reduced journey times will be achieved.
- Bus speed from Road Safety team needs to be integrated from outset.

ACTION: Chris Hanson to share access to UTrack data when possible.

Target 3 (increase in total passenger numbers in certain timeframe) may be a benchmark that is not ideal, nor is relevant to the current market, i.e. travel since Covid and since commuter numbers and schedules now vary so widely. The recovery of ENCTS numbers is good and are

higher than other LTAs. The framing of the increase hoped for might be better year-on-year, instead of X amount by year Y. This would likely reflect more consistent growth year on year, including the new growth culture and targets for developers.

ACTION: ITU to edit the BSIP Delivery Plan Update (pdf as circulated) with correct progress (%) on specific services. The version circulated 6.10.25 is to be updated and re-circulated.

ACTION: ITU and GCC to consider new target/scheme to include “number of increased vehicles within the network due to BSIP funds and strategy”.

Item 7

Review of Working Groups

Tom summarised that the four Working Groups cover the topics well, and that the targets and development schemes/projects (as discussed) show progress. Timelines are applicable and progress should be monitored and reported.

ACTION: It was agreed that administrators of the Working Groups will apply timeframes to actions as relevant, and should chase (via email) against these timeframes and/or in time for an upcoming WG meeting. It was agreed that any issues can then be forwarded to Chris or Luke. This avoids senior staff needing to receive full Notes and Actions from the Working Groups.

Item 8

Public Transport Survey

GCC are drafting a survey to compliment / to compare with the 2021/2022 survey. It was agreed that the survey should be **launched soon, well before the Christmas period**. Libraries and QR codes (including on The Robin) can assist with distribution.

ACTION: GCC to circulate final draft of survey with Chris and Luke when ready.

ACTION: Chris and Luke to suggest changes or additions, whilst acknowledging some questions are ideally not to be changed so data comparison with 2021/2022 answers is possible.

ACTION: GCC to get in touch/send survey to libraries and other hubs.

Item 9

AOB and date of next meeting

No one raised any other business. The date of the next Board meeting is the 9th of April. The next meeting for the EP is the Forum on the 13th of January.

The meeting ended at 3.10pm.