



Parish Transport Representatives bus update

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Transport Policy Team



Oxfordshire Bus Service Improvement Plan

- Our BSIP bid was for £53.4 million and we were allocated £12.7 million
- The first monies have been received and all will need to be spent by March 2025. We have recently been allocated an additional £1.8 million of new BSIP+ monies, spread over two years
- Proposals for the spend were approved by the Cabinet on 21 June 2022:

Capital schemes (£8.74 million) include:

- Oxford traffic filters scheme
- Countywide traffic signal priority upgrades
- Cherwell Street bus lane, Banbury
- Real Time Passenger Information upgrades

Revenue schemes (£3.96 million)

- Rural bus projects
- New/improved cross border services to Newbury and Brackley
- Retention of two rural bus services funded by the Supported Bus Services Fund
- Youth fares project; child fares for 16-18year olds and a £1 flat fare in Oxford City
- Journey planning for major employers



Progress to date

Capital schemes

- Oxford traffic filters scheme – planned for introduction October 2024 on completion of Botley Road works
- Countywide traffic signal priority upgrades – working with operators to identify suitable/priority sites
- Cherwell Street bus lane, Banbury – project team set up and discussion underway on requirements
- Real time information upgrades – working with operators to identify suitable/priority sites

Revenue schemes

- Rural bus projects – service 24 (Oxford-Bicester) introduced February 2023, Didcot/Blewbury area service planned for November 2023
- New/improved cross border services to Newbury and Brackley – 500 to Brackley introduced June 2023, Didcot-Newbury to be introduced 24 July 2023 (launch event this week)
- Retention of two rural bus services funded by the Supported Bus Services Fund – services 46 (Cowley-Wheatley) and 63 (Southmoor-Oxford)
- Youth fares project; child fares for 16-18year olds and a £1 flat fare in Oxford City – under further discussion as affected by extension of the £2 fare cap
- Journey planning for major employers – not yet commenced



Oxfordshire Bus Enhanced Partnership

- A legally binding/statutory agreement between Oxfordshire County Council and bus operators
- Was formally signed by all partners earlier in the year
- Overseen by an Enhanced Partnership Board, which also includes District Council representation and Arriva (on behalf of smaller operators)
- Commits all partners to the successful delivery of projects set out in the BSIP. **The key is to attract non-bus users, as well as improving satisfaction levels for current passengers**
- Four working have been established:
 - Keeping buses at the heart of decision-making
 - Making buses faster and more reliable
 - Upgrading bus infrastructure
 - Making buses more attractive

These are now proactively developing proposals for improvement. The Oxon4Buses Countywide user group are members of WG3/WG4

Working together

- A clear, strong identity. Website under development



ZEBRA

- Oxfordshire County Council were awarded £32.8 million from the Government's **Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas** scheme in March 2022
- The Council have dedicated some £6m of additional funding with Go-Ahead and Stagecoach providing £45m as a commercial investment
- Oxford Bus Company have ordered 104 Electroliner vehicles; 99 double-deck (including eight open-top for City Sightseeing) and five single-deck. These will be built by Wrightbus in Northern Ireland
- Stagecoach have ordered 55 next-generation Alexander Dennis Enviro400EV battery electric buses which will be manufactured at their UK plants. The first to comply with the TfL safety standard



Charging ahead

- All vehicles will be built to the latest standards:
 - next stop audio-visual announcements
 - two dedicated wheelchair spaces
 - wi-fi and USB charging points
 - air chilling
 - new TfL safety standard
- Discussion ongoing with both operators to minimise the myriad number of different liveries and branding. A more consistent look and standard approach to messaging will aid perception, particularly important for attracting new passengers
- Attention is also being paid to the passenger saloon in terms of seating type/quality, minimising unnecessary/gaudy warning notices and reviewing policies on internal advertising
- Councillor Kate Gregory is our new Public Transport Champion and will work closely with passenger representatives and operators





Thank-you

Any questions?

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