

Alec Gore
Transport Policy Team Leader
West Berkshire Council
Council Offices
Market St
Newbury
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By email to: Alec.gore1@westberks.gov.uk

26 October 2021

Dear Alec

Bus Service Improvement Plan submission

I am writing to you in your role as the council's representative on the TfSE Senior Officer Group to support the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) that your Council has produced.

As you are aware, Transport for the South East (TfSE) is a partnership of 16 local transport authorities (LTAs). Following the approval of our transport strategy in summer 2020, we have been developing a series of area and thematic studies to identify the specific interventions that will be needed to implement the strategy on the ground. This work will culminate in the publication of a draft Strategic Investment Plan for public consultation in June 2022.

TfSE has identified that buses will have a vital role to play in delivering the 2050 vision set out in the transport strategy and in particular the target of achieving net zero carbon emissions from transport by 2050, at the latest. The delivery of BSIPs will have a critical role to play in helping us to achieve our 2050 vision.

TfSE will be providing further Bus Back Better support to all our 16 LTAs through technical work we already have underway to develop an evidence base that will identify the future ambition for buses across the region. We have also recently submitted a joint proposal with England's Economic Heartlands and Transport East to the DfT's additional workstreams for 2021/22 to support the LTAs in our area with the delivery of their BSIPs.

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The successful delivery of our transport strategy and our constituent authorities' Local Transport Plans will be dependent upon a significant improvement in bus service provision to encourage passengers back onto buses. I therefore commend your BSIP as a vital first step in setting out your ambition to improve bus services in your area.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rupert Clubb', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rupert Clubb
Lead Officer, Transport for the South East