

**SOUTHEND-ON-SEA ENHANCED
PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2023-2028
AND
SOUTHEND-ON-SEA ENHANCED
PARTNERSHIP SCHEME**

Local Bus Forum overview

**Agenda
Item No.**

The Enhanced Partnership is the Department Transport (DfT)-directed mechanism for delivering the Southend Bus Service Improvement Plan 2022 to 2027. The Southend Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) was produced in 2021 and was adopted by Southend-on-Sea City Council in that year.

The Enhanced Partnership was devised and consulted on during 2022 and adopted by Southend-on-Sea City Council's Cabinet in January 2023 to take effect from April 2023. It consists of two elements: an Enhanced Partnership Plan (EPP), and an Enhanced Partnership Scheme which shows the detail and delivery of the Plan's execution.

The governance of the Enhanced Partnership comprises two separate bodies: the Southend Local Bus Board and the Southend Local Bus Forum. The Local Bus Board's primary function is to advise and agree on, and manage, the delivery of the EP Plan and Scheme.

The primary function of the Local Bus Forum - this meeting - is essentially to advise on the strategic direction and priorities of the Enhanced Partnership, which delivers the BSIP, and to set the context in which the Local Bus Board operates, by appointing the latter's Chair. It meets at least annually but can have additional meetings as required. It is not a body for advising on the detail of bus service changes but rather to advise on the overall direction and strategy of bus service improvements.

The Forum brings together representatives from a wide range of key stakeholder groups to review the progress of the BSIP and EPP. It may also recommend to the Board the priorities for improving the bus network that it should consider for the following year.

The Forum is responsible for advising the Board on the strategic direction of the EP, and may make recommendations to the Board about the priorities for improving the bus network that it should consider in the future.

The Forum was set up with membership including Southend-on-Sea City Council, the bus operators and the following stakeholder groups (including representatives of adjoining authorities). Initially these included Southend Area Bus User Group (SABUG), Bus Users UK, Essex County Council, Rochford District Council, Castle Point Borough Council, Transport Focus, Essex Police and Southend BID. Campaign for Better Transport (CBT) was voted onto the Forum at the Forum's first meeting.