

COUNCIL

13 December 2021

URGENT DECISION TAKEN BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR COMMUNITIES, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Report of the Cabinet

Strategic Aim:	Customer-focussed services		
Exempt Information		No	
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:		Cllr O Hemsley, Leader and Portfolio Holder for Policy, Strategy, Partnerships, Economy and Infrastructure	
Contact Officer(s):	Marie Rosenthal, Monitoring Officer		mrosenthal@rutland.gov.uk
Ward Councillors	N/A		

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council in line with Procedure Rule 208 of the Council's Constitution notes the urgent decision in relation to a Bus Service Improvement Plan for Rutland taken by the Portfolio Holder for Communities, Environment and Climate Change on 26 October 2021.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The report advises Council of an Executive Key decision concerning a Bus Service Improvement Plan for Rutland that had been taken as an urgent item under Procedure Rule 208 of the Council's Constitution. This Rule allows an urgent decision to be exempt from scrutiny call-in if a decision needs to be implemented as a matter of urgency. Procedure Rule 208 requires a report to the next available Council meeting explaining the decision, the reasons for it and why the decision was treated as matter of urgency.
- 1.2 Cabinet considered an urgent report on 26 October 2021 recommending the approval of the Council's draft Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP). The BSIP has been produced in line with Government requirements. The report highlighted the implications associated with the BSIP, sought approval to submit the BSIP to the Department for Transport (DfT) and proposed a mechanism for approving future changes to the BSIP and LTP4.
- 1.3 In March 2021 the Government launched a new National Bus Strategy: 'Bus Back Better'. The Strategy set's out the Government's ambition to build back bus use, above and beyond pre covid levels. It aims to do this by making the bus a practical

and attractive alternative to the car – reducing congestion, carbon and pollution whilst supporting those without access to private transport. The Strategy requires council to prepare a BSIP for their areas.

- 1.4 The government produced guidance on BSIPs on 17 May 2021 which stipulated that they need to be drafted in partnership with local bus operators and provided to the DfT by 31 October 2021. This therefore required an exemption from call-in as the expected call-in period after 26 October 2021 would have meant the Council missing the 31 October deadline.

- 1.5 Cabinet unanimously endorsed the Portfolio Holder for Communities, Environment and Climate Change to approve the draft BSIP for submission on 26 October 2021.

2 MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 The Chairman of the Council was consulted in accordance with Procedure Rule 208 of the Council's Constitution and agreed that the Call-in procedure would not apply to this decision on the grounds of urgency, as any delay caused by the call-in process would prejudice the Council's or the public interest.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1 None identified

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None identified at this stage

5 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 As detailed in the Report

6 DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 A Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) has not been completed.

7 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has not been completed.

8 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 None identified

9 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 None identified

10 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 Cabinet Report No. 133/2021 Bus Service Improvement Plan. Considered by Cabinet on 26 October 2021.

11 APPENDICES

11.1 There are no appendices to the report.

A Large Print or Braille Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.