

2024 BSIP refresh update Enhanced Partnership Board 21st May 2024

The information in this slide pack is correct as at 29th Apr 2024

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Background

- At the end of **January 2024**, DfT published the '**National Bus Strategy: 2024 Bus Service Improvement Plans Guidance to local authorities and bus operators**' document
- This mandated that **Bus Service Improvement Plans (BSIPs)** should be refreshed by Local Transport Authorities (LTAs), with submission to the DfT by **12th June**.
- The submission is not a bidding document but the release of **£7.82m** Phase 3 BSIP funding for **2024/25** is dependent on its submission to the DfT. It also acts as a '**shop window**' of future proposals to 2028/29
- Release of 2024/5 BSIP funding is also dependent on:
 - Publication of the BSIP refresh document on the **SYMCA website**
 - Completion, and submission to the DfT, of a **Bus Connectivity Assessment (BCA)**
- In **March 2024**, in response to LTAs feedback about producing a BSIP aligned to the guidance in the time available, the DfT and Bus Centre of Excellence provided LTAs with a '**minimum viable product**' (**MVP**) of content in their BSIP submissions
- In **April 2024**, the DfT published information about the Bus Connectivity Assessment requirement, including the spreadsheet and survey that need to be completed

DfT BSIP and BCA requirement and impact

- The **'minimum viable product'** for the BSIP refresh is as follows:
 - Clarification of the **geographical area** covered by the BSIP
 - An account of progress in **delivery achievements** to the end of 2023/24
 - Monitoring evidence of **performance to date** against targets set in the 2021 BSIP
 - The **2024/25 delivery programme**, alongside other information on spending on buses in **2022/23 and 2023/24**
 - **Ambitions and proposals for 2025 and beyond**, aligned to the national Bus Strategy objectives, with estimated costs and descriptions within 60 words
- The **Bus Connectivity Assessment** does not have a 'minimum viable product' option, consisting of a data-intense spreadsheet and 'expert opinion'-based survey
- The **original intention**, as set in February, was to follow the DfT **BSIP guidance** fully and showcase **place-based** proposals for improving the bus service, aligned to driving **transformational growth, improving health and reducing transport-related social exclusion** across South Yorkshire, within a **wider integrated public transport** offering.
- The **restrictive timescales** for the BSIP refresh, alongside the additional requirements for the Bus Connectivity Assessment, are likely to result in a minimum viable product submission where possible

SYMCA BSIP refresh submission options as at 30 April 2024

- **Option 1** – produce and submit a BSIP refresh that **follows the guidance** to the full
 - +ve : this would mean a **complete and compelling** BSIP that has dealt with all of the **difficult issues** and contains a **narrative** which is fully supported by **data and analysis**
 - -ve : this **cannot be completed** ahead of the 12th June submission date alongside the mandatory Bus Connectivity Assessment, so the DfT’s request would **not be met** and therefore 2024/25 BSIP funding will **not be released** in a timely manner
- **Option 2** – produce and submit a BSIP refresh that just contains the ‘**minimum viable product**’ (MVP) as set out by the DfT
 - +ve : this would **meet the DfT’s MVP requirement** for funding release, and **could be achieved** within the time available
 - -ve : this would **not showcase** the **place-based vision** for buses across South Yorkshire within an **integrated transport** offering
- **Option 3** – produce and submit a BSIP refresh with an ‘**MVP+**’ content
 - +ve : this would **meet the DfT’s MVP requirement**, and also set out SYMCA’s **vision for buses** within a wider context of **ambition** ahead of any future BSIP funding bidding process
 - -ve : this would need **time available to be maximised**, with the document being written and compiled to **mid / late May**. A list of unachievable guidance content would be generated to be resolved in advance of the expected 2025 BSIP refresh / funding bid submission

Thank you

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