



Passenger Transport Network Review Briefing

Department for Environment & Transport
13 September 2024

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<https://www.choosehowyoumove.co.uk/public-transport/enhanced-bus-partnerships/leicestershire-buses/>

Background Information

Leicestershire County Council is a Local Transport Authority (LTA) responsible for public transport provision.

The Council's duty under the Transport Act 1985 simply requires transport provision so far as the Council considers it appropriate to meet any public transport requirements which would not otherwise be met.

Further information

[Passenger Transport Policy](#)
[Passenger Transport Strategy](#)
[Cabinet report December 2023](#)
[BSIP21 and LBSIP24](#)

October 2018: The Passenger Transport Policy and Strategy (PTPS) was accepted by the Cabinet and implemented. This document set out the Council's approach to financially supporting passenger transport services, depending on what support the service needed.

October 2021: The Council published its Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) and established the Enhanced Partnership (EP). The BSIP sets out the Council's ambitions for Leicestershire's public transport network.

Enhanced Partnership: A collaboration between Leicestershire County Council and bus operators.

December 2023: The PTPS was refreshed to enable the Council to measure the level of support given to services depending on budget availability.

Present Day: In line with the Department for Transport's (DfT) guidance, the Council has refreshed its BSIP, known as Leicestershire Bus Service Improvement Plan 24 (LBSIP 24), and submitted a draft to the DfT as required. Approval from the Cabinet of the LBSIP 24 was granted on 13 September 2024.

How will it be funded?

The DfT has rolled out a number of bus support grants (revenue) to the Council, to support the delivery of the BSIP ambitions. The table to the right shows a breakdown of these funding grants.

The available funding is from all sources, including the Council's Local Bus Services budget, BSIP+, Network North (NN), and developer contributions (Section 106).

Grants (revenue)	Financial Year	Amount £	Spend period
BSIP+ Phase 2	2023/24	£1,790,000	October 2023 – October 2024
BSIP+ Phase 2	2024/25	£1,790,000	June 2024 – Mar 2026
Network North (NN)	2024/25	£4,050,000	June 2024 – Mar 2026
TOTAL		£7,630,000	

- The Government's spending review is pending and future funding from the Government for passenger transport is uncertain beyond 2025.
- The BSIP+ grant funding award means that the Council is now able to consider a different approach to how it supports the bus service network.
- The new approach to review and reshape Leicestershire's passenger transport network will involve working with operators directly and through the EP.

What is the Council doing?

- Reviewing and redesigning the services that are supported by the Council financially. This will allow the Council to **maximise service provision** for residents and **support the commercial (privately operated) network**.
- Replace any services that no longer meet the needs nor provide value for money. This means that the Council can **obtain and commission new or amended services**.
- **Providing a well-rounded and layered service provision** across services financially supported by the Council and commercial (privately operated) services.
- Focus on **maximising available funding** from all sources.

[Read More](#)



Positive Outcomes

- ✓ Trial new initiatives.
- ✓ Be creative with transport solutions, such as more FoxConnect style Digital Demand Responsive Travel (DDRT).
- ✓ Improve partnership working.
- ✓ Improve publicity, marketing and promotion.
- ✓ Improve the customer satisfaction level.
- ✓ Design a network with accessibility at the forefront.
- ✓ Improve partnership working.

What is the Council's proposals?



- To expand the demand-led services being offered on a more flexible basis.
 - To enhance the existing commercial services where appropriate.
 - To plan services to maximise the potential of multi-modal journeys (bus-train-cycle-walk).
 - To maintain the current Park and Ride provision.
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- To work with bus operators to trial discounted travel for younger people.
 - To work with bus operators to standardise youth fares.
 - To explore and develop appropriate ticketing schemes.
 - To develop a Leicestershire bus branding identity.



Why is the Council doing this?

Leicestershire County Council will work with operators directly, and through the EP, to redesign a passenger transport network for Leicestershire (both commercial and supported). Together, the EP can **provide more direct, attractive routes by bus**.

The review will allow a **better use of Demand Responsive Travel (DRT) and DDRT** models, like FoxConnect, which will provide services to more communities.

Operators can work with the Council towards **returning services to commerciality (privately operated) through agreed targets**. This means that the Council can financially support commercial services until it is not needed, or a passenger target is met.

Working closely with neighbouring LTAs will also help to **improve connectivity and strengthen services that are cross-boundary**.

Commercial Services: Privately operated bus companies.

How might the network look?

The BSIP+ grant funding means that the Council can review and redesign the bus service network, to better serve and connect Leicestershire residents.

Passenger Transport Services

DRT: A flexible service that provides shared transport to users who specify their desired location.

DDRT: A demand based, bookable service that makes use of technology. Passengers can book by using a mobile app, and by using pick-up and drop-off locations in a specific service area. There is no fixed timetable, and routes are optimised based on passenger demand and locations.

Lifeline DRT: A taxi or minibus that has a small number of scheduled journeys available to book in advance to the nearest local centre during the week.

Community Transport: Community-led services that are delivered in partnership with voluntary sector providers as part of a service agreement with the Council.

When will the bus network change?

The review has begun and will follow a phased approach to address local demand at community level. The phases are set out in the table below.

Phase	Area	Review	Procure	Change
1	Melton	Spring 2024	Autumn 2024	Winter 2024/25
2	Charnwood	Spring 2024	Autumn 2024	Winter 2024/25
3	West Leicestershire	Summer 2024	Winter 2024/25	Spring 2025
4	Harborough	Autumn 2024	Winter 2024/25	Spring 2025
5	Hinckley	Autumn 2024	Winter 2024/25	Spring 2025

The review will include:

- ✓ All contracted services.
- ✓ All commercial services which receive any subsidy from the Council.
- ✓ Partnership working with commercial bus operators. (considering re-design or enhancements where this is both appropriate and affordable).

To share the plans for the network review, there will be a variety of Sustainable Travel Roadshows at venues in each of the five phases. They will take place on various dates during October 2024 – March 2025.

Where can you find out more?

The Sustainable Travel Roadshows will be drop-in style events that offer the public a chance to find out more information about bus services and transport initiatives across the County.

Sustainable Travel Roadshows:

- **Melton Borough Council (Civic Suites).**
- The promotion of alternative sustainable travel options will be available.
- Officers will be available to answer questions, provide a summary of the key changes and provide information.
- The roadshows will encourage greener and more active travel – through behaviour change campaigns and events.
- Information will be available from other partners (Public Health, Traffic and Safety Team, Environment Branch, bus operators).
- Updates will be available on the **Choose How You Move website** (<https://www.choosehowyoumove.co.uk/public-transport/enhanced-bus-partnerships/leicestershire-buses/>). Future Roadshow dates will be announced according to each phase (see previous slide), and information will be published on the Choose How You Move website.
- Updates will be available on the Council's social media platforms, and the Leicestershire County Council website.

Phase 1 – Melton:	
Monday 14th October	12 noon - 4pm
Wednesday 16th October	3pm - 7pm
Saturday 19th October	12 noon - 4pm