

# North East Lincolnshire's Bus Service Improvement Plan

## Quarterly Newsletter: June 2023

Welcome to the first issue of North East Lincolnshire Council's (The council) Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) newsletter. Through this newsletter, we will provide quarterly updates on the progress of the BSIP, including what the next steps are for the council and local bus operator (Stagecoach East Midlands).

### Background of the BSIP

In 2021, the Government announced the National Bus Strategy (NBS) for England which offers an opportunity for step changes in local bus services. As a requirement of the NBS, the council's BSIP was developed in response to the opportunities offered through the NBS and describes how a properly funded Enhanced Partnership (EP) will achieve its overarching goal to grow bus patronage back to pre-covid levels, and then beyond. The plan was developed in collaboration with local bus operators and community stakeholders.

An EP is a statutory partnership between the Local Transport Authority (The council) and the local bus operator, that sets out how both partners will work together to deliver the BSIP outcomes in North East Lincolnshire.

The council put in an ambitious bid and was successfully awarded £4.7 million BSIP funding, making the council the only authority in the Yorkshire and Humber region to receive the funding.

The following links provide access to the latest versions of the BSIP and EP documents (please note, these are working documents and will be regularly refreshed as the BSIP progresses. Both documents are due to be refreshed and republished in the coming months):

[NELC's Bus Service Improvement Plan](#)

[Part 1 - Enhanced Bus Quality Partnership](#)

[Part 2 – Scheme Document](#)

[Appendix Documents](#)

### What to expect from the BSIP

After the Department for Transport (DfT) announced the £4.7 million to North East Lincolnshire, the council were required to reprioritise the schemes submitted in the original bid and provide a 'summary table' to the DfT, setting out how the council intends to use the funding allocation. The following schemes have been prioritised to be delivered between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024:

**Bus Priority Measures** – The council have commissioned SYSTRA to conduct a study of North East Lincolnshire to identify any potential conflicts causing delays to buses. From this study, SYSTRA have identified a number of schemes/ measures to aid and priorities public transport within the borough. Using the study data, the Portfolio Holder for Environment & Transport will make an informed decision on the Bus Priority Measures which will be delivered in North East Lincolnshire.

**Acceleration of Traffic Signal Priority Programme for Buses** – The borough already has 14 junctions with Traffic Signal Priority technology for buses, so through the BSIP, the council wish to accelerate and install additional technologies at a number of locations. This technology enables a bus that is running more than 3 minutes late to request a green signal at a traffic light.

**Fare Capping by Day / Week** – The DfT have approved a Business Case that the council submitted to enable the delivery of Tap on, Tap off technology in North East Lincolnshire. This technology will allow passengers to tap a contactless bank card when boarding and alighting the bus, resulting in passengers only being charged for the journey made, which is capped at the daily fares rate.



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**Bus Service Alterations** – Through the BSIP and partnership working with Stagecoach, the operator has varied a number of services within the borough. Details of the services are as follows:

- **New 3 and 4 services** (between Morrisons and Cleethorpes Pier). A new 3 & 4 service is running on a Sunday evening at 6:45pm between Grimsby Town Centre and Morrisons.
- **5 service** (Grimsby to Immingham) continues to run every 30 minutes. New Sunday services go via Ladysmith Road to Tesco Hewitt's Circus.
- **6 service** running between Wybers Wood and Cleethorpes Pier every 30 minutes (Monday – Saturday) via Ladysmith Road and Clee Road.
- **7 Service** runs from Grimsby Town Centre to Curzon Avenue/ Warwick Road via Hainton Avenue and Weelsby Road.
- **8 service** (Grimsby Town Centre to New Waltham). A new extension to Westward Ho has been provided to improve connections to Franklin College. Services also run along Kings Road and Cleethorpes sea front, terminating at Cleethorpes Pier.
- **9/10 service** (Waltham to Cleethorpes) runs every 15 minutes, including an extended route to Tesco Hewitt's Circus.
- **12 service** (New Waltham to Bradley Park) operates every half an hour between Grimsby Town Centre and Bradley Park. There is also an hourly service between Grimsby Town Centre and New Waltham.



Details of these services, and any other changes made by the operator can be found at

<https://www.stagecoachbus.com/promos-and-offers/east-midlands/grimsby-services>

The above services, including some additional changes made by the operator, went live on the 7 May 2023. To advise of the change, and to answer any questions members of the public may have, Bus It events were held with Stagecoach and members of the council's delivery partner, Equans Transport Team in attendance, at Grimsby Bull Ring and Cleethorpes Sea Road on the 10 & 11 May 2023.

**Acquisition & Deployment of CCTV units** – In an attempt to further combat antisocial behaviour in the Riverhead Interchange, the Transport Team plan to tie into the existing CCTV campaign the council are delivering. The team will use BSIP funding to install additional CCTV units to ensure all bus stops within the Riverhead are covered.

**Discounted Fare Products for Youths** – During the development of the BSIP, the council identified a need for discounted fares for those under the age of 19, to aid accessibility to education within the borough. The council and Stagecoach are currently in discussion to agree the level of discount and how the discounted tickets will be issued. Once agreed, further details will become available.

**Enhanced Parking Enforcement** – It has been identified by Stagecoach that there are a number of vehicles illegally parking at bus stops and on key bus routes, therefore the council plan to use BSIP funding to employ Parking Enforcement Officer(s) who will cover the bus network.



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**Monitoring & Evaluation** –To ensure accuracy when monitoring the benefits from the BSIP, the council wish to commission Transport Focus for the duration of the BSIP. In January 2023 Transport Focus started conducting bus passenger surveys in North East Lincolnshire.

Due to a delay in receiving funds, the council have not been able to fund the delivery of any of the above measures yet, however, preparation is underway ready to start delivery as soon as funds become available.

### Next Steps

The council have now received the year 1 funds from the DfT, however, due to the increased delivery costs associated with some schemes, the council had to reallocate some funds within the BSIP. The council cannot commence with delivery until the DfT approve the reallocation of funds, which should be received in the coming weeks. Once approval is received, the council can commence with the delivery of the above schemes.

### BSIP Contact

If you have any comments or questions regarding the BSIP, or you would like to discuss the BSIP with an officer, please email [iani.lamming@nelincs.gov.uk](mailto:iani.lamming@nelincs.gov.uk) or [Transport@nelincs.gov.uk](mailto:Transport@nelincs.gov.uk).

### Next Newsletter

The next newsletter will be issued in August 2023.

It is envisaged that the next newsletter will include information on:

- Funds allocated to each BSIP measure
- Update on each BSIP measure, including spend to date
- Any BSIP communications
- Snapshot of the Transport Focus survey results to date
- Next steps
- Key dates



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