

**1<sup>st</sup> June 2023: 'Bus Service Improvement Plan Plus' Funding**

The county council has been awarded £1.78m 'Bus Service Improvement Plan Plus' (BSIP+) funding in the current financial year as part of a Department for Transport (DfT) settlement to more than 60 local transport authorities in the country.

The Leicestershire allocation comes from a £80m national pot with the same amount available (£80m) in 2024/25, although allocations to individual authorities have not yet been confirmed for the second year of funding.

This short-term funding boost is welcome and presents a great opportunity to help better shape the public transport offer across the county, but it is vital that services offer value-for-money.

In using this additional money, we will ensure it is directed to offer greater connectivity for our communities rather than continuing to subsidise low value services.

It is therefore intended to pause the current Passenger Transport Policy and Strategy (PTPS) review of services which the council currently subsidises (see list attached).

This will allow us to fine tune our PTPS and better align it with the Government's aspirations, while ensuring continued emphasis on value-for-money service provision and access to essential services.

However, the receipt of this funding will not mean it being used towards the reinstatement of commercial bus services already withdrawn.

Following revision of our PTPS, it is anticipated that we will start to review the position on our contracted services from late 2023 into Spring 2024, with any planned changes being subject to a transparent engagement process with Local Members and affected communities.

The BSIP+ funding will allow us to retain our existing subsidised bus services, the cost of which significantly exceeds the current budget, while giving us the opportunity to reshape our PTPS into supporting a more sustainable rural public transport model.

To help us with this, we would also ask you to encourage your residents to make use of the DfT's current £2 fare cap which has been extended until the end of October this year, and rising to £2.50 for the rest of the year and into 2024.

Getting on a bus is a great way to get out and about and will help our work to reshape our public transport offer and understand where bus services are really valued by our communities.

For further enquiries, please email [ptps@leics.gov.uk](mailto:ptps@leics.gov.uk)

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