



Buckinghamshire
Council

Buckinghamshire Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP)



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What is it?

The Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) represents Buckinghamshire Council's plan to establish buses as a key travel mode in Buckinghamshire, providing connectivity and accessibility to all with safe, reliable, and regular bus services.

Why do we need it?

This is our response to the National Bus Strategy 'Bus Back Better', published in March 2021 that sets out Government priorities to improve bus services in England and requires all local authorities to create a BSIP.

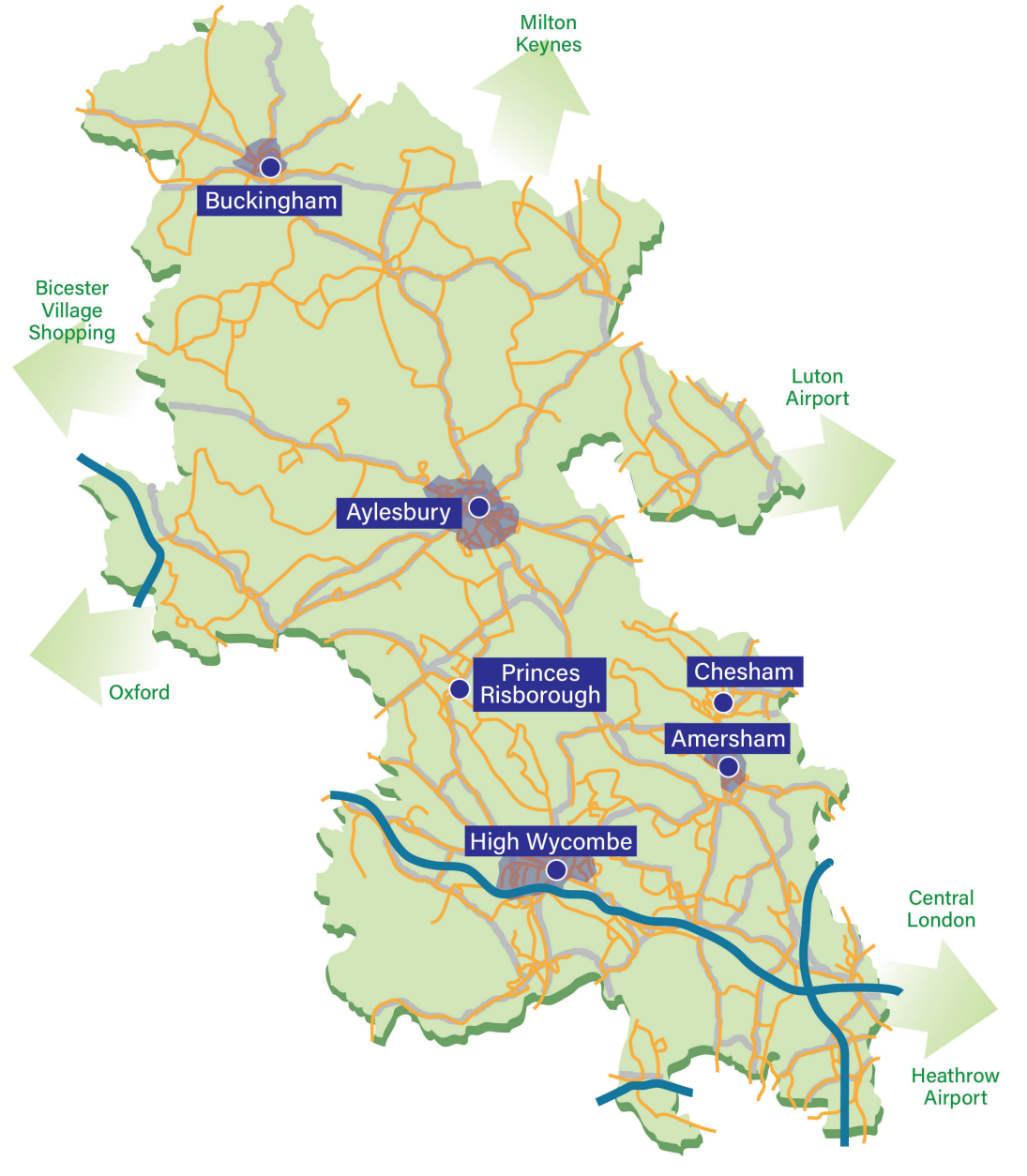
Buckinghamshire Council already has a positive relationship with local bus operators, and we have made the commitment to create an Enhanced Partnership with them. This partnership will provide the basis for delivering improved bus services in Buckinghamshire.

How was it developed?

The plan has been developed in partnership with bus operators and Council Members, with input from the public through an online survey.

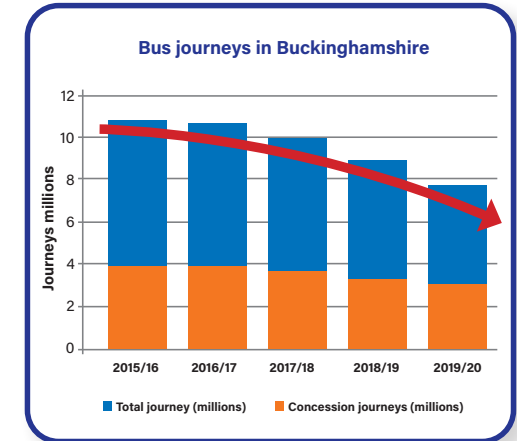


The bus route network in Buckinghamshire



Challenges...

- High car ownership
- Dispersed population
- The number of passenger journeys per head of population in Buckinghamshire had declined between 2015/16 and 2019/20
- During the same period, bus route coverage remained broadly the same, but the impact of congestion on journey times has put further pressure on the funding of services.



Opportunities...

- We already have over 100 bus routes
- Good Core Network
- Good relationship with bus operators
- Good education transport sector
- Growth in students at expanding universities and colleges
- Great opportunity to create Smart and multi-operator ticketing



What you said is important...

- We asked you, Councillors, and bus operators what should be our focus for improving bus services in Buckinghamshire
- Your opinions were gathered in a public online survey between 2 August and 3 September 2021

Safety and security

Attractiveness of catching buses e.g. cleanliness of buses, onboard features and bus stop facilities

Continued subsidies to return services to pre-COVID-19 levels

Improved passenger information, particularly digital

Tighter integration with local planning, particularly for new developments

Shared ticketing between bus operators

More direct services (i.e. fewer interchanges)

More punctual and reliable services

Bus Integration with rail

Bus priority infrastructure

Cheaper fares

More frequent services

Better provision of concessionary fare schemes, consistent across operators



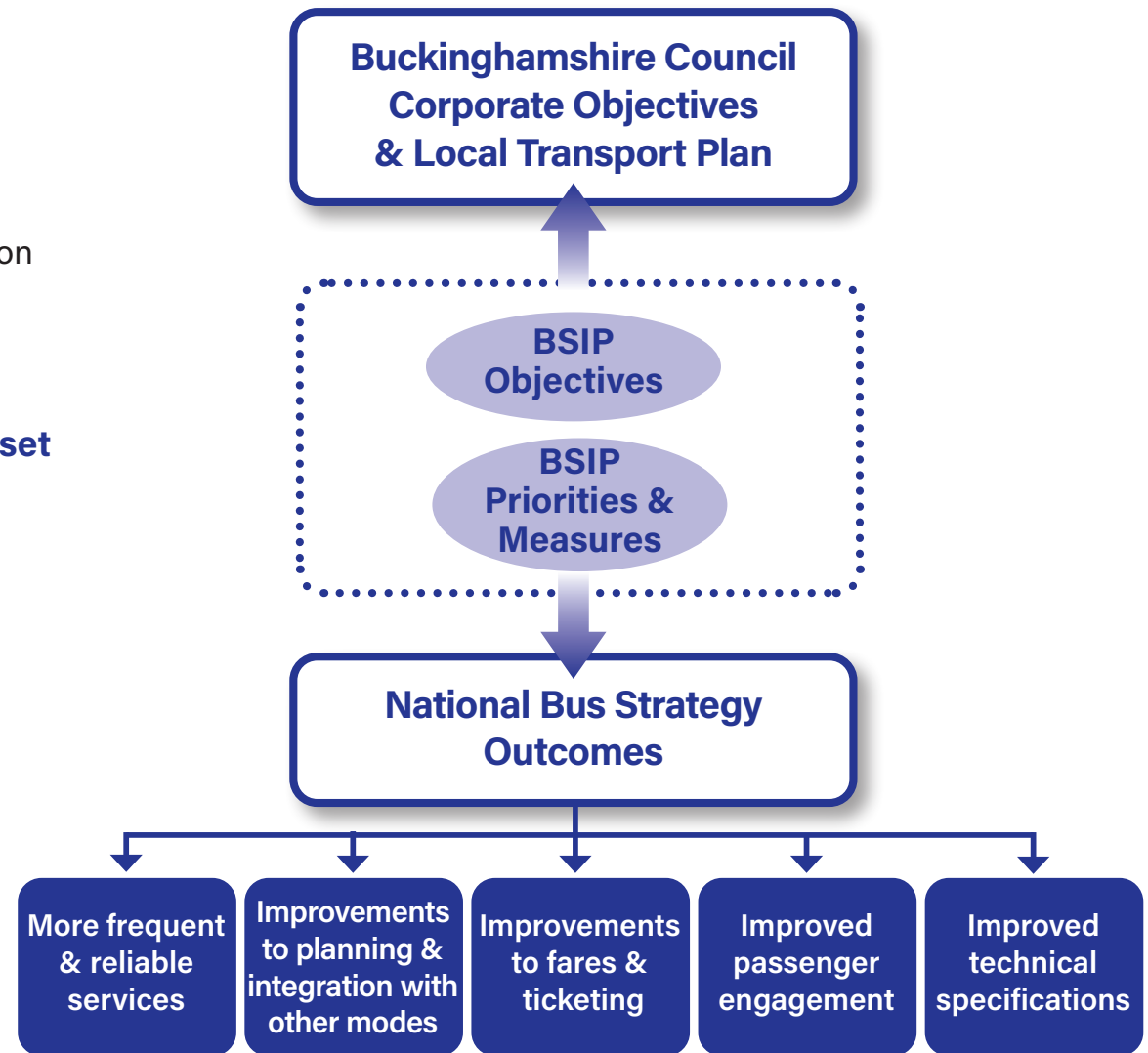
Objectives

Our objectives are:

- a) Putting transport users first
- b) Improve reliability of bus services
- c) Make bus service easier and more attractive to use
- d) Support our climate change strategy and decarbonisation
- e) Encourage network and patronage growth

Our measures and schemes fall into five categories set by the Department for Transport:

- More frequent and reliable services
- Improvements to planning and integration with other modes of transport
- Improvements to fares and ticketing
- Improved technical specifications
- Improved passenger engagement

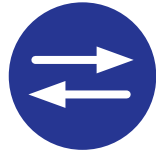


Key Priorities

We have put together some ambitious ideas to improve services:



- Better passenger experience – focussing on the safety and security of passengers, especially for more vulnerable groups, improving bus stops and bus stations and enhanced vehicle quality



- Increase the frequency of bus services and improve punctuality and reliability through bus priority measures



- Implement Demand Responsive Transport in Aylesbury and High Wycombe



- Improve interchange opportunities including better integration between buses and trains



- Improve links to rail stations, hospitals, airports, higher education and leisure facilities and new and improved links to local tourist attractions



- Clearer and simpler fares including multi-operator ticketing schemes, flexible tickets, fare capping and young person discount schemes



- Improve bus specifications, including greener, lower-emission Euro V and VI buses, on-board facilities such as Wi-Fi and CCTV, and next-stop audio-visual information



- Increase Real-Time Passenger Information (RTPI) displays



- More comprehensive passenger travel information and upgrading bus stops to Real Time displays



- Support more local community transport

