

ESCC update to Brightling Parish Council 10th November 2021

Following a public consultation, ESCC's draft Bus Service Improvement Plan was approved at the Lead Member meeting last month. It will now be finalised and submitted to the Department for Transport. It is a very ambitious plan which is dependent on receiving national government funding.

It describes in outline terms how the County Council and bus operators in the area can achieve the overarching goal of the National Bus Strategy - to grow bus patronage: both to build it back after the pandemic and then to increase it and raise buses mode share.

The aims are to provide

- More bus priority schemes designed to enhance reliability and reduce journey times.
- A bus network that relates to the needs of all potential users.
- Simplified fares and ticketing and reduced fares for young passengers under the age of 30.
- A step change in terms of improved services for the rural areas.
- Technical and operational innovation in bus service provision.
- Bus patronage in the County not only to recover their pre-pandemic levels, but to significantly grow in future years.

Further information can be found at -

[LMTE 25 October 2021 BSIP.pdf \(eastsussex.gov.uk\)](#)

At Cabinet yesterday a one-off payment was approved for an additional £5.8million to support highway improvements over and above the on-going maintenance programme.

This one-off investment provides a significant opportunity to improve road signs, lines, road patching and pavements.

Also yesterday Cabinet approved a bid for a one off investment of just over £3mm for 2022-23 and 2023-24 taken from the £8.55million reserves that has been established for one off investments. This money will support ESCC's climate emergency work.

More information can be found at -

[Item 5 - Climate Change Funding Proposal.pdf \(eastsussex.gov.uk\)](#)

Burwash parish council has just been successful in its bid for match funding for a traffic calming scheme which will include a 20mph speed limit.