

## Bus Service Improvement Plan Delivery Plan 2025/2026

### Introduction

This document has been produced following guidance from the Department for Transport (DfT) on the Local Bus Grant 2025/2026. For DfT to release this grant funding Cheshire West and Chester Council were required to submit a revised Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), and accompanying Delivery Plan setting out the spend. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was also signed by the Council agreeing to the funding terms and conditions.

An overview of the BSIP funding to date for Cheshire West and Chester Council is summarised below:

BSIP Funding	Total	Revenue	Capital	Other
BSIP Phase 2 (2023/2024)	£1,291,071	£1,291,071	Nil	Nil
BSIP Phase 2 (2024/2025)	£1,291,071	£1,291,071	Nil	Nil
BSIP Phase 3 (2024/2025)	£2,031,000	£2,031,000	Nil	Nil
Local Bus Grant (2025/2026)	£5,782,022	£2,576,802	£2,796,902	£408,318*

\*Capacity and Capability Grant (£94,000), Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG) (£314,318)

### Our West Cheshire Bus Service Improvement Plan Vision is to create a network that:

- Makes bus the **Mode of Choice** through more reliable provision of **Quicker**, more **reliable** and more **accessible** services
- Improves **connectivity for all** reducing transport related Social Exclusion and supporting modal shift to public transport
- Support the Councils strategic priorities and **objectives of the Local Transport Plan** in relation to promoting health communities, supporting a thriving economy, delivering efficient networks, protecting environment and achieving **carbon neutrality by 2045**

BSIP funding has enabled the Enhanced Partnership to improve some bus services in the borough. This has been achieved by increasing some service frequencies, introducing evening services and reacting to the commercial market, thus maintaining services which otherwise could be withdrawn. Information on these enhancements can be viewed [here](#).

### Local Bus Grant (2025/26)

The table below outlines a package of initiatives for the Local Bus Grant (2025/2026) funding allocation, which supports the delivery of the 2024 Bus Service Improvement Plan vision and objectives which we aim to deliver by 31 March 2026.

[Bus Service Improvement Plan for Cheshire West and Chester | Cheshire West and Chester Council](#)

Type of scheme/measure	Additional description of scheme/measure (including intended beneficial outcomes)	2025-26 Bus Grant (£k)	
		Capital	Revenue
Bus priority infrastructure	Identification and implementation of new bus priority infrastructure across the borough including upgrades to signals and urban traffic control systems.	✓	
Bus stops/stations/ interchanges	Bus stop enhancements across the borough including a programme of rural bus stop improvements. This will include the implementation of raised kerbs, enhancements to pedestrian access to bus stops and rollout of real-time passenger information at key high use stops.	✓	
Other infrastructure	Maintenance and renewal of Chester Park & Ride sites including renewed and improved signage, car park surface repairs and relining, waiting area revamping, refurbishment of existing buildings, removal of old ticket machines and gritting of car parks in winter.		✓
Vehicles	Undertake assessment of bus depot capability and readiness, future proofing for low carbon vehicle technology. Developing a prioritised programme for updating vehicles with improved information, accessibility and comfort for passengers, for example audio and visual announcements.	✓	
Ticketing equipment/systems	Ongoing development of borough-wide multi-operator ticketing.	✓	✓
Bus service support/network development	Budget for Council subsidy and support of local bus services to include continued funding of existing services, trials of new and extended services, and expansion of the itravel demand responsive service.		✓
Simpler/more affordable fares	Implementation of a borough-wide multi-operator youth ticket.		✓
Safety and security	Audit and upgrade of the existing Chester Park & Ride sites (including a review of Sealand Road) to improve passenger safety and security.	✓	
Improved information, marketing	Marketing and promotion of bus services (including Park & Ride), and development of a borough-wide bus network brand for stops, information, and web-based tools.	✓	✓
Development of future proposals	Development of network enhancements to be funded in future years, including improved services to areas such as the 'Origin' industrial area in Ellesmere Port, and Park & Ride evolution and expansion.	✓	
LTA delivery/admin costs	Digital tools and progress monitoring against e.g. BSIP targets.		✓
Other	Budget to cover ancillary and other cost increases related to BSIP activity and delivery.		✓