



## **DECISION OF COUNCILLOR ELFAN AP REES**

THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING, HIGHWAYS,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING.

WITH ADVICE FROM  
THE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT

**DECISION NO 16/17 DE 7 (UPDATE TO 15/16 DE 278)**

### **SUBJECT:**

Quality Partnership Scheme for MetroBus.

### **Background:**

Metrobus is a new express bus service for the West of England region. It is a joint partnership project between Bristol City Council, North Somerset Council and South Gloucestershire Council. This government funded project costing £200 million will be fully operational by 2019. Metrobus is designed to be a high capacity rapid transport system that uses a combination of segregated busways, bus lanes, ipoints and smart ticketing to speed up journey times. MetroBus has been designed to link and connect with existing rail and bus services. It also builds on the £80 million investment in the Greater Bristol Bus Network. The network is forecast to carry 20,000 passengers per day when fully operational.

The main Metrobus routes currently being constructed are:

#### **North Fringe to Hengrove:**

This route will link Cribbs Causeway, Aztec West and Emersons Green with Bristol City Centre and Hengrove in south of Bristol.

#### **Ashton Vale to Temple Meads:**

This route will provide frequent services from the Long Ashton Park and Ride to Bristol Temple Meads and the city centre.

**South Bristol Link:**

The route connects Ashton Vale to Temple Meads service from Long Ashton to the new hospital and leisure centre in Hengrove.

To support the investment the scheme requires the authorities to make quality partnership schemes and supporting voluntary partnership agreements with bus operator(s) for Metrobus. The authorities working arrangements will be governed by the Inter Authority Agreement. The three agreements that require approval are summarised below. Based on the financial value of the Metrobus infrastructure in North Somerset, delegated authority falls to the Executive Member for signing the agreements.

- **Quality Partnership Scheme (QPS)** which will include the statutory elements of the partnership between the local authorities and the Metrobus operator(s)
- **Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA)** which will set out individual agreements between the local authorities and Metrobus operators.
- **Inter Authority Agreement (IAA)** which will govern the working arrangements between the local authorities for the Metrobus bus stops and ipoint infrastructure.

**DECISION:**

It is recommended that each agreement is approved so the Head of legal services can execute the documents on behalf of the Council.

**Reasons:**

These agreements are required to progress the project. It is anticipated that they will need to be in place one year before the first Metrobus services are registered for operation.

**Other Alternatives Considered:**

None

**Risk Assessment:**

These agreements seek to reduce risk across the Metrobus project.

**Financial Implications:**

There are costs contained within the IAA to manage and maintain the infrastructure at Metrobus stops in North Somerset. The cost implications for North Somerset amount to £9,000 per annum which Bristol City Council acting as the lead authority would administer. This can be fully contained within the relevant transport budget of the Directorate.

Signed..... The Executive Member for Strategic  
Planning, Highways, Economic Development and Housing

Dated.....

**Confirmation of Advice Given**

Signed.....Director of Development & Environment

Dated.....