

Scottish Association for Public Transport

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Three topics

Glasgow City Region Bus
Partnership

Aberdeen Bus Service
Improvement Partnership

Project Coral

Glasgow City Region Bus Partnership

GCRBP – Voluntary Partnership – rejuvenated late 2024

Independent Chair – George Hazel – seeking stakeholder views

First Bus separately looking at impact of congestion on network

First Bus initiate discussions with SPT and GCC

SPT consulted on franchising but that will be perhaps 5 years away

All agree – we need to act now to improve efficiency and attractiveness of services

Partnership accord signed December 2025 by SPT, GCC, surrounding districts, First, Stagecoach, West Coast

Bids to Transport Scotland for Tier 2 funding through GCRBP – just the beginning

Workshop being planned for summer 2026

Exploring what needs to be addressed and what stakeholders can bring to the party

Planning for detailed agreement signature Aug/Sept 2026.

Aberdeen Bus Service Improvement Partnership

Section 35 of Transport Scotland Act 2019 introduced BSIPs

Not the same as an English BSIP – more like an English EP

Comprises a Plan and a Scheme

Five years duration

Transport policies and interventions with an emphasis on bus

Measures and facilities provided by LTA

Standards apply equally to all operators

Working with Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire on a joint BSIP for whole area – major improvements to bus efficiency and attractiveness

And paves the way for context of Aberdeen Rapid Transit

Current status – final legal review by local authorities

For implementation 2026

Project Coral

Bringing the benefits of contactless travel to a multi operator environment

Banking industry protocols prevent sharing card details between operator back offices

Operators use proprietary ticketing systems that process data in different ways

Multi operator ticketing is already common with paper and mobile tickets

Eg Glasgow Zonocard, Glasgow Tripper, Aberdeen Grasshopper

Bus operators already offer single operator contactless capped travel – available across First Bus

Each initiative is designed to make bus travel simpler – how to combine them!

West Midlands Combined Authority funded by DfT to procure a back office system

Needs sufficient volume of transaction to give sustainable operating cost per transaction

Bus operators of UK came together to form Coral consortium and work with WMCA

Public procurement exercise just concluded April 2026 and Littlepay have the contract

First deployment West Midlands spring 2027

Thereafter rollout across UK – who's ready?

Finally....

Any questions?