



February 2013

Agenda Item:

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR TRANSPORT, PROPERTY AND ENVIRONMENT

SHORT NOTICE CHANGES TO THE LOCAL / COMMERCIAL BUS SERVICE NETWORK (SOUTH NOTTINGHAM AREA).

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform Committee of recent changes to the local and commercial bus service network following the cessation of business by Nottinghamshire bus and coach operator, Premiere Travel. This report will detail the actions taken by the Group Manager, Transport and Travel Services to cancel vary or replace services.
2. To approve the award of a contract for services operating in the Colwick, Netherfield and Carlton areas.

Information and Advice

3. Premiere Travel operated 80 buses and employed over 200 staff mainly in the South of the County. The company ceased trading as of 5pm on Friday 25th January, 2013, following an unsuccessful pre-packaged sale of the business by an appointed Administrator.
4. The County Council was made aware of cash flow issues with Premiere Travel and have over recent months worked very hard with them to try and find a solution to this problem including the variation of routes and contracts to reduce costs.
5. The operator ran a mixture of commercial, supported local bus and school transport services and undertook work for the County Council to the value of approximately £2m per annum.
6. The County Council has a duty, under the Transport Act 1985, to consider local needs and which supported bus services are necessary where there are no commercial services available. In 2012/13 £5.9m will be spent on supported bus services across the County, an average of £7.86 per head of population.
7. Local bus services across the County are provided in two ways:

- a. Commercial services which operate without funding support
- b. Supported services which are subsidised by the Council

All bus services must be registered, giving a minimum of 56 days' notice to the Traffic Commissioner, who administers and manages the local bus service registration and performance. Bus operators must also send copies of the new registrations, variations and cancellations at the same time to the County Council. On most occasions bus operators give the County Council advance notice of their intentions so that decisions on any intervention can be taken and the public notified at the earliest opportunity. The Traffic Commissioner can waive the notice period in special circumstances such as an operator ceasing to trade.

8. Transport and Travel Services made speedy arrangements to secure new suppliers for the school transport routes previously operated by Premiere Travel. All replacement services were in place for Monday 28th January and schools were informed of the new arrangements by close of business on Friday 25th January. There were no interruptions to the flow of these services as Premiere Travel completed all school journeys on Friday afternoon and all new operators delivered services from the following Monday morning.
9. Commercial and supported local bus services were considered and prioritised then temporary arrangements were put in place in accordance with identified priorities eg routes supporting access to employment and other essential services were given a high priority. All of Premiere's commercial routes and 80% of Premiere supported services were covered by Monday 28th January and the Traffic Commissioner was advised of the situation so that they could allow dispensation from the 56 days' notice for the affected service routes. A list of replacement services was on the County Council website by 5pm on Friday 25th January and the County Council Customer Service centre were advised of the arrangements to enable them to efficiently handle any enquiries received over the weekend.
10. The remaining 20% of Premiere supported service routes that were not covered by Monday the 28th January either had suitable alternative services available or other routes were being revised to achieve maximum coverage. The only routes that remain not served are those in the Colwick, Netherfield and Carlton areas. It is proposed that replacement services to be operated by Nottingham Minibuses and Coaches starting on Monday 11th February 2013.
11. All school and local bus services have been covered under temporary arrangements and these will all be considered in due course as part of the TITAN project. Some of these arrangements may need to be in place until December 2013 to allow for completion of network reviews as part of the project.
12. The attached Appendix lists the alternative school and local bus services that have been provided.

Reasons for Recommendations

13. The recommendation and continued financial support meets the objectives of promoting public transport, reducing congestion, promoting economic recovery and offers travel choice.

Statutory and Policy Implications

14. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Implications for Service Users

15. The provision of local bus services enables users to access key services, jobs, training and leisure and if the County Council had not stepped in to cover the supported bus network then some bus users would not have had a service from Monday the 28th January.

Financial Implications

16. The new arrangements are expected to cost an additional £75k in 2012/13 and £302k in 2013/14. Some of these additional costs will be received from outstanding payments to Premiere Travel in accordance with the Service agreement

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Committee:

- 1) Note the urgent actions taken by the Group Manager, Transport and Travel Services to vary, cancel or replace bus services as a result of Premiere Travel ceasing to trade.
- 2) Approves the award of a contract to Nottingham Minibus and Coaches for the Colwick, Netherfield and Carlton services.

Name of Report Author: Mark Hudson,

Title of Report Author: Group Manager, Transport and Travel Services

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Mark Hudson, Group Manager, Transport and Travel Services

Chris Ward, Team Manager North, Transport and Travel Services

Constitutional Comments (SLB 01.02.2013)

17. This report is for noting only

Financial Comments (DJK)

18.

Background Papers

Registration and timetables for the new or varied services

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Electoral Divisions and Members Affected

All

Premiere Travel Alternative Services

Nottinghamshire bus and coach operator, Premiere Travel ceased operations on 25th January and since then Nottinghamshire County Council has been working closely with other local bus operators to secure replacement services wherever possible. Details are below:

s = Supported Service c = Commercial Service cs = Commercial and Partially Supported

Bus Number	Route	Alternative
2 (s)	Sherwood Business Park - Jackdale - Selston - Sherwood Business Park	Monday to Saturday (Lowe's Coaches). Operating a revised timetable.
3.1 (s)	Keyworth - Willoughby - Keyworth	Monday to Saturday (Littles Travel). Operating to existing timetable
3.2 (s)	Keyworth - Hickling - Keyworth	Monday to Saturday (Littles Travel & Sharpes of Nottingham). Operating to existing timetable with 0810 journey from Colston Bassett to Keyworth journey missing.
5 (s)	Oxton - Lowdham - Nottingham	Monday to Saturday (AOT Travel). Operating to existing timetable.
6 (cs)	Bingham - Calverton - Arnold - City Hospital	Nottm City Transport are revising route 47 to cover Nottm – Mapperley – Lambley – Woodborough – Calverton – Epperstone – Lowdham - Gunthorpe.
Red 7 (c)	Nottingham - Mapperley – Lambley / Arnold - Calverton	New service 47, 47A introduced operated by Nottingham City Transport.
50 (s)	West Bridgford - Cotgrave - Owthorpe - Colston Bassett	Monday to Saturday (Sharpes of Nottingham). Operating to existing timetable but terminating at Central Avenue, West Bridgford, not Broadmarsh Bus Station.
53 (s)	Cotgrave - The Cropwells -	There is no replacement to this service, but 56A

	Bingham	will serve Bingham, Mallow Way.
54 (s)	Newark - Farndon - East Bridgford - Bingham	Monday to Saturday (Stagecoach). Operating to existing timetable.
55 (s)	Bingham - Bottesford	Monday to Saturday (Stagecoach). Operating to existing timetable.
56A (s)	Bingham - Orston	Tuesday & Thursday (Sharpes of Nottingham). Operating to existing timetable but now serving Bingham, Mallow Way.
56B (s)	Whatton - Newark	Wednesday & Friday (Sharpes of Nottingham). Operating to existing timetable.
63 (s)	QMC - East Leake - Keyworth	Monday to Saturday (Paul Winson Coaches). Operating to existing timetable but terminating at QMC, not Beeston.
65 (s)	Nottingham - Thrumpton - Normanton on Soar	Monday to Saturday (Paul Winson Coaches). Operating to existing timetable.
73, 73A (s)	Colwick - Netherfield – Carlton / Oakdale - Mapperley – Arnold	Replacement recommended to start Monday 11 th February 2013 on a revised timetable
74 (s)	Netherfield - St Michael	Replacement recommended to start Monday 11 th February 2013 on a revised timetable
74 (s)	Netherfield - St Michael Avenue - Netherfield	Currently has no replacement service, the County Council are looking into alternatives.
7.2, 7.3 (c)	Nottingham - Mapperley – Gedling / Carlton Valley - Netherfield	Replacement recommended to start Monday 11 th February 2013.
Red 1 (c)	Nottingham - Radcliffe - Bingham	Use Trent barton Bingham Xprss or Radcliffe line as an alternative. Trent Barton has additional journeys between Nottingham and Radcliffe on new service 101.
Red 3 (c)	Nottingham - Tollerton - Keyworth	Use Trent barton Keyworth Connection as an alternative
Red 5 (c)	New Sawley - Long Eaton - QMC - Nottingham	Use Trent Barton Skylink as an alternative. Additional journeys between Nottingham and Long Eaton have been introduced.
Red 8 (c)	Nottingham - City Hospital - Hucknall - Sherwood Business Park	Use Trent barton service 3A, 3B, 3C, Connect Blue/Green or the Nottingham Tram as an alternative.
Red 9 (c)	Nottingham - Bunny - Loughborough	New service 9 introduced operated by Kinchbus.
S1 (c)	Clifton - Wilford Green - ASDA - West Bridgford - Morrisons	Thursday & Friday (Silverdale). Operating to existing timetable.
S2 (c)	Bingham - Gamston - West Bridgford - ASDA	Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday (Silverdale). Operating to existing timetable.
S3 (c)	Keyworth - Tollerton - Morrisons - West Bridgford - ASDA	Tuesday & Thursday (Silverdale). Operating to existing timetable.
S4 (c)	Cropwell Bishop - Cotgrave -	Fridays only (Silverdale). Operating to existing

	Gamston - ASDA	timetable.
S8 (c)	Calverton - Netherfield Morrisons	There is no replacement to this service.
S9 (c)	Southwell - Netherfield Morrisons	There is no replacement to this service.
S10 (c)	Sneinton - Colwick - Netherfield - Carlton	Monday & Thursday (Silverdale). Operating to existing timetable.
S11 (c)	Netherfield - Carlton - St Anns	Monday & Thursday (Silverdale). Operating to existing timetable.