

January 2013**Agenda Item:5****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR TRANSPORT, PROPERTY AND
ENVIRONMENT****CHANGES TO THE LOCAL / COMMERCIAL BUS SERVICE NETWORK****Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform Committee of recent changes to the local and commercial bus service network and the actions taken by the Group Manager, Transport and Travel Services to cancel, vary or replace services.

Information and Advice

2. The County Council has a duty (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.
3. 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 service. 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.

4. This regular report advises Committee of changes to the local bus network and provides information of related operational decisions made by the Group Manager, Transport and Travel Services to replace, vary or cancel services. Appendix 1 attached lists the most recent changes to the bus network for Committee to note.
5. Premiere Travel Ltd have cancelled their Red Flyer service to the East Midlands Airport. This does not have any major implications as TrentBarton operate a

service to the airport by another route from the City Centre to the airport via Long Eaton.

6. Minor timetable changes have been made to other Premiere Travel supported and commercial services to improve efficiency and reliability. These changes will be monitored to ensure that the changes achieve the service improvements
7. Following requests from County Councillors and the local MP, the County Council introduced the Toton Connect Service 110 which serves Attenborough – Chilwell – Toton and Stapleford, providing a half hour off peak frequency for residents to connect with mainline services at Chilwell West Point. This service, to be operated as a pilot, commenced on the 26 November 2012. The service is operated by a NCC fleet vehicle using one of the new bluebird multipurpose buses, an average of 25 passengers per day currently use the service.
8. Since this time Premiere Travel Ltd have given notice to cancel their commercial service 17. This service operates Nottingham – Stapleford – Toton – Attenborough – Beeston. The service runs from 0730 until 1630. Monday to Saturday and provides an hourly frequency at peak times and a 20 minute frequency off-peak. The cancellation takes effect from the 2nd January 2013 and would leave parts of Stapleford and Attenborough without a bus service.
9. To resolve this problem the Toton Connect service has been extended to become the Toton Connect Plus service 110 with journeys now serving Stapleford, Attenborough Lane and Long Lane including some early morning and late evening services.
10. Whilst not providing a direct service to Nottingham, the Toton Connect Plus service 110 provides links to mainline services at Chilwell, West Point and Derby Road, Stapleford for connection to services for Derby and Ilkeston. The service will operate on an hourly basis

Reasons for Recommendations

11. 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

12. 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

13. The provision of local bus services enables users to access key services, jobs, training and leisure. The majority of the service changes described in Appendix 1 are minor timetable route changes which should improve service reliability and have no major impact for the service users. However, some changes will have had significant implications as follows:-

- Service 1 (SEM). This commercial service from Coddington to Newark terminates at Bargate and no longer serves the bus station. Some service users have expressed concern that they are unable to travel onwards to Newark hospital, Balderton, Nottingham or Newark without a long walk to the bus station. SEM response is that only a few passengers travel onwards from Bargate and to serve the bus station would result in unreliability or a reduction in service frequency which would be unacceptable to most users. Passengers wishing to travel onwards can do so by connecting at Bargate.

- Service 90 (TB). The operator has given notice to withdraw the evening service operating between Sutton in Ashfield – Selston and Ripley, which effectively leaves Selston without any evening service from the 31st March 2013. Passenger data is currently being analysed and there are on-going discussions with Derbyshire County Council and the local member to seek an affordable and acceptable solution to this loss of service.

Financial Implications

14. The new arrangements for service 33 / 330 / 424 saved £88K per year. The costs for the Toton Connect 110 will be £82K per annum and will, therefore, be contained within the current budget.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. It is recommended that Committee note the report.

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For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (SHB 12.12.2012)

15. Committee have power to decide recommendation

Financial Comments (DJK 12.12.2012)

16. The contents of this report are duly noted; the frequency of service has been confirmed as being correct.

Background Papers

Registration and timetables for the new or varied services: November 2012.

SEM response – Coddington service 1 – November 2012.

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