

20 October 2016**Agenda Item: 5****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND
PROPERTY****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 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 2016/17 £4.1m will be spent on supported bus services across the county.
3. Local bus services across the county are provided in two ways:
 - (i) Commercial services which operate without funding support
 - (ii) 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 Manager, Transport and Travel Services to replace vary or cancel services. The Committee should note that these operational decisions are due to the urgency involved in reacting to the decisions made by bus companies particularly when they impact on local bus and school transport services. Furthermore, any decisions made in this regard have followed discussions with local County Councillors and other stakeholders.
5. In April 2016 Transport & Highways Committee approved the final proposals to reduce the Local Bus budget as part of the 2015 Option for Change. These service changes, shown in Appendix 1, were introduced across the County in August 2016 delivering the required saving of £420k to the Local Bus budget and a further saving of over £45k to the Adult Social Care transport budget. Early indications are that the changes have proved

successful but we are continuing to work with individual communities to ensure the best possible use of vehicle resources.

6. Yourbus have made a number of changes to their commercial services. The Y36 service has been amended to serve Bramcote Avenue, Cator Lane and Beeston High Road. The Y5 route has been amended to now operate to Queens Medical Centre, both changes were effective from 28th August.
7. Nottingham Coaches have cancelled their registration for the Bingham Express service which will cease operation on 7th October 2016. The route and times are covered by the Trentbarton Rushcliffe Mainline route and it is not intended to support any replacement service.

Reasons for Recommendations

8. 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

9. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working 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

10. The provision of local bus services enables users to access key services, jobs, training and leisure. The arrangements detailed above have been made to ensure access to the key priorities of employment, education, health and essential shopping.

Financial Implications

11. There are no financial implications within the report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Committee:

- 1) Note the report regarding changes to the supported and local and bus service networks.

Jas Hundal
Service Director

Environment, Transport & Property

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments

12. As this report is simply to be noted by Committee, Constitutional Comments are not required.

Financial Comments (DJK 29.09.16)

13. The detailed proposals for efficiencies are detailed in this report and the appendix with accompanying financial savings identified.

Background Papers

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.

None

Electoral Divisions and Members Affected

All