

**17 September 2013****Agenda Item:****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 2013/14 £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. 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. Appendix 1 (attached) lists the most recent changes to the bus network for Committee to note. The

number of changes in this report are exceptionally high because it covers changes made since the last report to Committee in January 2013.

5. Yourbus have announced a number of service changes to their routes. Service Y29 (Eastwood to Queens Medical Centre) will be withdrawn from 15<sup>th</sup> September; Service 101 will be amended to cover areas of Newthorpe previously served by the Y29. Alternative or connecting services are available for passengers currently using service Y29. It is not proposed to replace the Y29 service because this would incur unnecessary costs of approximately £200K per year when alternative services are available. Yourbus have also introduced a new service Y5 between Derby and Beeston which commenced on 14<sup>th</sup> July.
6. Service 89/90 in Bassetlaw (supported by the County Council) has recently been amended following local requests to provide additional peak journeys from Dunham to Retford. This service change has been achieved at no additional cost to the County Council.
7. All bus services from the Ruddington, Clifton and West Bridgford areas operating to and from the City will be affected by road closures at Wilford Lane and Meadows Way/Arkwright Street from 1<sup>st</sup> September to December 2013 to accommodate works for the tram development. The closures and route diversions are described in the hand outs, published by NET, titled "Works on Wilford Lane from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013" and "Works on Arkwright Street from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013" and will have significant implications for bus users whilst the work is undertaken. The diversions of the bus services affected have been agreed with the bus operators and at no cost to the County Council.

### **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 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**

10. 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 have no major impact for the service users. However, the service Y29 withdrawal and the West Bridgford and Meadows Way service diversions will have significant implications for users of

the services affected in that journey times will be longer and some passengers will need to travel using connections to their end destination.

### **Financial Implications**

11. The changes to local bus services and service diversions outlined due to the tram works in this report have been contained within the allocated budget for 2013/14.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Committee:

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

**Mark Hudson,  
Group Manager, Transport and Travel Services**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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### **Constitutional Comments (NAB 06.08.13)**

12. Transport and Highways Committee has authority to consider the matters set out in this report by virtue of its terms of reference.

### **Financial Comments (TR 12.08.2013)**

13. The contents of this report are duly noted; the frequency of service has been confirmed as being correct and no additional costs have been 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.

Registration and timetables for the new or varied services: July-August 2013

### **Electoral Divisions and Members Affected**

All