

**21 May 2014****Agenda Item:3****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR TRANSPORT, PROPERTY AND  
ENVIRONMENT****IMPLEMENTATION OF APPROVED OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE B17 –  
LOCAL BUS SERVICES****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek Committee approval of the actions needed to implement the approved Outline Business Case in respect of the County Council supported Local Bus Service network.

**Information and Advice**

2. The County Council has a duty (Transport Act, 1985) to consider local needs and to identify what supported bus services are necessary to fill gaps where there are no commercial services available.
3. Local bus services across the County are provided in two ways:
  - a. Commercial services which operate without funding support from the Council
  - b. Supported services which are funded or partially funded 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.

4. As part of the budget review programme, the expenditure on County Council supported Local Bus Services (LBS) was targeted to reduce by 30% (£1.8m), from £6m to £4.2m per annum. The outline business case for this, B17, was approved by Full Council on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2014.
5. To achieve these savings, a network of services has been re-designed and re-tendered, following wide public consultation. The list of re-tendered service

contracts to be awarded is available as background paper 'Schedule A Local Bus Service Awards' (available on the NCC website.)

6. In addition, a number of supported Local Bus Services have been identified for withdrawal of financial support. A list of these services is available as background paper 'Schedule B Local Bus Services Withdrawals' (available on the NCC website).
7. The recommended award of new contracts in Schedule A will deliver £1.1m of efficiency savings with a further £855k funding reduction in respect of the supported Local Bus Services in Schedule B. This gives a total saving of £1.96m thus exceeding the £1.8m budget reduction target.
8. It is intended to use the internal transport fleet to deliver some of the revised services across the County. This will contribute towards the overall savings target and will also help to deliver up to £330k savings on Adult Social Care transport.
9. The measures outlined above relate to two-thirds of the full value of current local bus support. The remaining expenditure largely supports commercially provided services, a list of which is available in background paper 'Schedule C Contracts to be Reviewed' (available on the NCC website). It is intended to continue with these contracts for the time being as they currently represent best value for the provision of key services across the County. The Committee should note that Schedule C includes the retention of some services identified from the public consultation exercise as being of high value and critical to meeting the needs of local communities who would otherwise be left with poor access to key services.
10. A further review of the remaining supported local bus service contracts is planned to start later this year. This involves significant support for a wide range of commercially operated services particularly in the north east Bassetlaw area. It is intended that a period of consultation with all stakeholders will be carried out and the outcomes brought to this Committee on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2014. It is anticipated that a revised network of services in this area will deliver a further £100k of efficiency savings with new services commencing in April 2015.

### **Reasons for Recommendations**

11. The recommendations are necessary to meet the efficiency targets agreed in the outline business case for local bus services. These measures meet the objectives of promoting public transport, reducing congestion, promoting economic recovery and offering travel choice.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

13. 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**

14. 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**

15. The £1.96m saving meets the requirement to reduce the 2014/15 local bus budget from £6m to £4.2m.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Committee approve:

- 1) the award of local bus service contracts (Background Paper, Schedule A)
- 2) the withdrawal of financial support contracts (Background Paper, Schedule B)
- 3) the renewal of contracts (Background Paper, Schedule C)
- 4) Consultation on further network changes across the County. These measures meet the objectives of promoting public transport, reducing congestion, promoting economic recovery and offering travel choice.

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### **Constitutional Comments (SHB 09.05.14)**

16. This Report is for noting only so no Constitutional comments are required.

### **Financial Comments (TMR 09.05.14)**

17. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 15 of the report.

### **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.

Schedule A Local Bus Service Awards  
Schedule B Local Bus Services Withdrawals  
Schedule C Contracts to be Reviewed

**Electoral Divisions and Members Affected**

All