

7 January 2016

Agenda Item: 4

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 2015/16 £4.3m 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 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.

5. Trentbarton have recently withdrawn the Ruddington Connection service, the areas affected have been covered by Nottingham City Transport who have varied their service 3 and 10, these changes took effect on 22nd November 2015. Trentbarton have also announced a number of changes to their commercial routes from January 31st 2016 detailed below:
 - a. The Indigo service frequency will drop from every 7 minutes to every 10 minutes Monday to Saturday and from 10 minutes to every 15 minutes on Sunday. The peak extensions to Sawley are withdrawn.
 - b. Skylink express – a new service operating between Nottingham and East Midlands Airport via Trent Bridge and the A453.
 - c. Club Class service will be withdrawn, this will not affect the level of service along this corridor.
6. There have also been a number of changes to other services across the County:
 - a. Service 510 operated by Fleet Transport has had a minor change of route in Beeston and Stapleford, the revised route commenced on 30th November 2015.
 - b. 47A operated by NCT has been re-routed to cover Moor Lane in Calverton from 26th October 2015. The temporary shuttle service for that area has been withdrawn.
 - c. The Sherwood Arrow and service 35 have reverted back to their regular routes on 6th December 2015 following the opening of the new Elkesley Bridge over the A1.
 - d. Nottingham Coaches will be withdrawing service 17 in early 2016 subject to Traffic Commissioner approval. All areas of this route have alternative services available.
 - e. Yourbus are withdrawing their S1/X36 route in Beeston from 4th January 2016. Fleet Transport will be providing a replacement off peak shopper service (536) from 5th January at no additional cost to the Authority.

Reasons for Recommendations

7. 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

8. 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

9. 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

10. There are no financial implications in the report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Committee:

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

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For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments

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

Financial Comments

12. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 10 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.

Electoral Divisions and Members Affected

All