



12 February 2015

Agenda Item: 5

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR TRANSPORT, PROPERTY AND
ENVIRONMENT**

CHANGES TO NORTH EAST BASSETLAW BUS SERVICES

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek Committee approval for proposed changes to the supported local bus network in the North East Bassetlaw area.

Information and Advice

2. Significant changes were made to the supported local bus network in August 2014 in order to reduce the local bus budget by £1.8m. The efficiency saving has been achieved through providing more feeder services to main routes reducing service frequencies, making better use of our own fleet, introducing more phone-a-bus services and trying to extend commercial bus provision wherever possible. This new approach to service design ensures that services continue to provide journeys to key destinations for work, health, education and shopping.
3. The supported services operating in North East Bassetlaw have been reviewed separately. The County Council currently supports the commercial operation of these services through agreements costing £652k per annum. The County Council also provides six vehicles purchased in 2007 with European funding which are used on these services to help offset the cost of operation.
4. Local consultation was held on four separate days at locations in the area in Autumn 2014 and details also circulated to Bassetlaw District and Parish Councils, Bassetlaw Health Trust, John Mann M.P, neighbouring Authorities and elected Members.
5. Approximately 100 people attended the public roadshow events and their comments have helped shape the revised network which maintains access to the key priorities of employment, health and essential shopping. All current commuter services are retained with the inclusion of additional peak services. A new service which links to villages in NE Bassetlaw via Bawtry to Doncaster for employment and education opportunities is provided in the new network. All school and college journeys are maintained.
6. All stakeholders were sent the proposed timetables for the new network following the consultation. Comments have been received back from three parishes and their concerns are being incorporated where possible. Bassetlaw District Council has also been briefed and indicated their support for the revised services.

Summary of Changes and Proposals

7. The following are the main network changes to the bus services in the area:

Service	Frequency	Villages Affected
27 Bawtry to Retford	Reduced to 2 hourly, route extended to Bawtry for improved access to Worksop and Doncaster, additional early morning journey to Retford to improve access to employment	Everton, Lound, Mattersey, Mattersey Thorpe, Misson, Sutton
29 Doncaster to Retford	Minor timetable changes to the current frequency	Barnby Moor, Bircotes, Harworth, Ranskill, Styrrup, Torworth
95 Gainsborough to Retford	Frequency drops to 2 hourly, peak journeys maintained	Beckingham, Bole, North Leverton, North Wheatly, South Leverton, Sturton Le Steeple
96	Replaced by new Service 98 between Gainsborough and Gringley (service then continues to Bawtry and Doncaster)	Clarborough, Clayworth, Hayton, Wiseton
97 Gainsborough to Retford	No change to the current frequency but minor timetable changes	Beckingham, Clarborough, Clayworth, Gringley, Hayton, Misterton, Walkeringham
98 Gainsborough via Bawtry to Doncaster	New Service between Gainsborough-Bawtry-Doncaster, replaces Service 96 between Gainsborough and Gringley	Beckingham, Everton, Gringley, Misterton, Walkeringham, West Stockwith
99 Retford to Doncaster	No change to the current frequency	Barnby Moor, Ranskill, Scrooby, Torworth
127	Wiseton will be covered by a revised Service 127	

Proposals

It is proposed that:

- a) The new network has been designed after extensive local consultation and negotiations with Stagecoach East Midlands. These discussions have provided a very successful outcome for local people, the County Council and Stagecoach and a new network of local bus services meeting local needs.
- b) The revised timetables for services in North East Bassetlaw (Appendix A) are implemented from May 2015. The new cost to the County Council will be £573k per annum.
- c) A new service concessions agreement is entered into with Stagecoach East Midlands to operate these services for three years.
- d) Discussions with Stagecoach East Midlands continue concerning integrated ticketing agreements for the new network.

Reasons for Recommendations

8. The recommendation and continued financial support meets the objectives of promoting public transport, reducing congestion, promoting economic recovery and travel choices.

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 the revised local bus service enables users to access key services, jobs, health and leisure.

Financial Implications

11. The costs relating to the proposals for NE Bassetlaw are expected to save £79k per year towards this efficiency proposal. Proposal 25 in the budget consultation proposes to deliver a further £720k of efficiencies through service savings by August 2017.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Committee:

- 1) Approve the proposals in paragraph 7.

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For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (SLB 15/01/2015)

12. Transport & Highways Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

Financial Comments (TMR 27/01/2015)

13. The financial savings are set out in paragraph 11 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.

January 2015 – Individual bus timetables for each services.

Electoral Divisions and Members Affected

All

