

ITEM NO 5
PART 1 SECTION B

EXTENDING HOSPITAL PILOT SCHEME AND EXTENDING LIMITED SUNDAY SERVICES

Purpose of Report

To inform members of the award of contracts for Sunday and Bank holiday bus services and for the X60 Neath to Murrison Hospital bus service.

Background

Sunday and Bank Holiday Services

On the 29th May the Integrated Transport Unit sought members permission to go out for quotations for the continuation of the Sunday and Bank Holiday services. These services allow people living in outlying areas access to Neath for onward travel to Swansea and Port Talbot on commercial bus services.

First Cymru provided the lowest quote. There will be no interruption in service to the general public, and these services will operate as they did with the previous operator. This contract will initially operate for six months with an option to extend the contract in six month blocks for a period of up to August 2016. This will give the Council the flexibility to terminate the contracts should the commercial services cease to operate, or if the Council Subsidised services become commercially viable.

X60 Neath to Murrison Hospital

On the 11th July members permission was sought to go out for quotations for the continuation of the X60 Neath to Murrison Hospital Monday to Friday daytime service.

In the invitation to quote, operators were requested to submit prices on two separate timetables (Appendix A), as follows:

The first timetable was for the service as it stands now, currently the X60 Neath to Murrison Hospital service operates off the clock face. This makes it difficult for passengers to know what time the bus departs Neath or the Hospital. (timetable1).

The second timetable reflects suggestions from the traveling public and members of staff at Murrison Hospital, that by increasing the frequency and extending the times the service operates, more staff and visitors would be encouraged to use the service.

Although there is a slight increase in cost the second option (timetable 2) offers passengers a regular departure time from Neath and the Hospital along with an increased frequency to hourly. This will increase the number of journey from six round journeys to eleven round journeys per day Monday to Friday.

The new service option will operate from Neath Victoria Gardens at quarter past the hour from 06.15 until 16.15, then from Morrison Hospital at quarter two the hour from 6.45 until 16.45 arriving at Neath 17.15. Time Tables attached (Appendix A).

The contract was accepted on the basis of timetable 2.

Financial Implications

In March SWITCH had a small amount of money which was distributed to the four L.A's (40k per authority) to be used to support bus services which may be at risk of withdrawal through lack of funding.

The Sunday services will cost £263 per day £7,364 for six months

The X60 will cost £220 per day £27,720 for six months – this is an increase of £3,780

Consultation Outcome

There has been no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

Sustainability Appraisal

There are no sustainability issues.

List of Background Papers

None

Appendices

Appendix (A) Time Tables

Ward Affected

All

Officer Contact

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Appendix A

<u>Timetable 1</u>										
<u>Service X60</u>										
NEATH VICTORIA GARDENS TO MORRISTON HOSPITAL										
via Neath Abbey, Skewen										
Monday to Friday (Service does not operate on Bank Holidays, Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day)										
Neath Victoria Gardens	08.15	09.35	10.55	12.15	14.15	15.35				
Skewen (Cresci's)	08.25	09.45	11.05	12.25	14.25	15.45				
Bowens Arms	08.29	09.49	11.09	12.29	14.29	15.49				
Morrison Hospital (Main Entrance)	08.50	10.00	11.22	12.40	14.40	16.00				
Morrison Hospital (Main Entrance)	09.00	10.15	11.35	12.55	14.55	16.15				
Bowens Arms	09.14	10.26	11.46	13.06	15.06	16.26				
Skewen (Cresci's)	09.18	10.30	11.50	13.10	15.10	16.30				
Neath Victoria Gardens	09.28	10.40	12.00	13.20	15.20	16.40				

