

ENVIRONMENT AND HIGHWAYS CABINET BOARD

URGENT REPORT OF THE HEAD OF ENGINEERING AND TRANSPORT – D.W. GRIFFITHS

29TH JANUARY 2015

SECTION A – MATTER FOR DECISION

WARD(S) AFFECTED: CYMMER

UPDATE ON CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL MEMBERS AND SERVICE OPERATOR WITH REGARD TO PROVISION OF EVENING SERVICE ON ROUTE 32/36

Purpose of Report

To update Members on the outcome of further consultation in relation to the evening journeys of route 32/36 between Croeserw and Cymmer between Local Members and the service operator.

To formally seek Members' approval to advise Bridgend CBC of this Council's intention to withdraw its funding contribution to route 32/36.

Background

That having given due regard to the Equality Impact Assessment, the E&H Scrutiny Cabinet Board on the 18th of December 2014, agreed that the legal notices be served on operators, to terminate and alter services to subsidised bus routes for implementation by the 5th April 2015. There was one exception in relation to the Bridgend CBC contracted service 32/36 Croeserw to Cymmer the decision was to defer to allow for further consultation to be undertaken in conjunction with Local Members and the Service Operator, and the results be reported back at the earliest opportunity.

Current Position:

The service operator, First Group, will not be in a position to provide the journey commercially without any subsidy from Bridgend CBC. The demand does not justify the continuation of the journeys on a commercial basis.

Passenger loadings are on average:-

Ex.Croeserw Time	Ex. Cymmer Time
19.11 – 2 passengers	19.24 – 3 passengers
20.11 – 1 passenger	20.24 – 2 passengers
21.11 – 1 passenger	21.24 – 2 passengers
22.11 – 1 passenger	
23.11 – 1 passenger	

Bridgend CBC's Cabinet Board Members met on the 13th January 2015 to discuss the rationalisation proposals within their County Borough. The outcome of which, indicates that there is currently no intention to reduce the subsidy on route 32/36.

First Group's intention is to continue with the current level of service, as long as the income from Bridgend CBC remains at its current level.

If the funding reduces in the future, then the service provision will have to be revisited.

Recommendation

It is recommended having due regard to the Equalities Impact Assessment:-

That Members note the updated position and that First Group will continue to provide the service at its current level, whilst Bridgend CBC's funding arrangement also remains at its current level.

That Officers be authorised to write to Bridgend CBC advising them that NPT's funding contribution towards service 32/36 will be withdrawn from 31st March 2015.

List of Background Papers

Minutes of Consultation meeting on 6th January 2015.

Equalities Impact Assessment of 15th September 2014 presented to E&H Board 18th December 2014.

Ward Affected

Cymmer

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COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

UPDATE ON CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL MEMBERS AND SERVICE OPERATOR WITH REGARD TO PROVISION OF EVENING SERVICE ON ROUTE 32/36

(a) Implementation of Decision

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call-in period.

(b) Sustainability Appraisal Community Plan Impacts

Economic Prosperity	-	Negative
Education and Lifelong Learning	-	Negative
Better Health and Well Being	-	Negative
Environment and Transport	-	Negative
Crime and Disorder	-	Negative

Other Impacts

Welsh Language	-	Negative
Sustainable Development	-	Negative
Equalities	-	Negative
Social Inclusion	-	Negative

(c) Consultation

This was subject to initial consultation as part of the removal of Council subsidised bus services reported to the Environment and Highways Cabinet Board on the 18th December 2014, including groups with protected characteristics. A further consultation with the Operator and Local Members was undertaken on the 6th January 2015.