

Part I

Electoral Divisions affected:
Lancaster East; Lancaster
Rural East; and Lancaster
South East

Introduction of New Tendered Bus Service in East Lancaster
(Appendix 'A' refers)

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Executive Summary

This report recommends the introduction of a new bus service in East Lancaster that will make use of the Moor Hospital Section 106 funding contribution.

Recommendation

The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport is asked to:

- (i) Approve the introduction of the tendered bus service in Lancaster as set out at Appendix 'A';
- (ii) Request that officers undertake the necessary contract procurement process to allow the service to be introduced at the earliest opportunity.

This decision should be implemented immediately for the purposes of Standing Order 34(3) as any delay could adversely affect the execution of the County Council's responsibilities. The reason for this is to ensure that the enhanced bus service provision can be introduced at the earliest opportunity.

Background and Advice

In 2012 the owners and developers of the Moor Hospital site entered into a Unilateral Undertaking pursuant to Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 with Lancaster City Council, which included for the provision of funding to enhance the local bus service operating between the development and Lancaster City Centre.

The level of Section 106 funding available from Lancaster City Council to enhance this local bus service is initially £115,000. Future funding is scheduled to become available from Lancaster City Council through other developments in the area.

Proposal

It is proposed to enhance the local bus Service 18 in the eastern area of Lancaster through the use of Moor Hospital Development Section 106 funding contribution as summarised below:-

Service 18 Lancaster East Circular

It is proposed to enhance the current level of service from the 4 journeys a day to operate every 30 minutes during Monday to Saturday daytime.

The new route and timetable is shown in Appendix 'A'.

Based on estimated passengers of 25,000 and fares revenue of £30,000 per annum, the £115,000 will enable the service to be enhanced for a period of up to 19 months. This period will be extended, or reduced, dependent on the actual fares revenue received. During this period of initial support, it is anticipated further developer funding will become available through Lancaster City Council, extending the period of support to allow more time for the service to be established as commercially viable.

Recommendation

The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport is recommended to approve the proposed introduction of the tendered bus service in Lancaster as set out at Appendix 'A' and request that officers undertake the necessary procurement process to allow the service to be introduced as soon as possible.

Consultations

The divisional County Councillors have been advised of the proposed enhancements to the public transport service in East Lancaster.

County Councillors Henig, Collinge and Dowding welcomed the proposed service enhancements and supported the implementation as soon as possible.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

Without the proposed introduction of the new bus service in East Lancaster, it would not be possible to utilise the Moor Hospital Development Section 106 funding. Failure to commit this funding in line with the agreement will result in it having to be returned to the developer without any enhancement to the public transport services.

Financial

The full cost of this new tendered bus service will be met by the utilisation of the Moor Hospital Development Section 106 funding of £115,000. It is anticipated further developer funding will become available extending the period of support to allow more time for the service to be established as a commercially viable. Following the cessation of the funding, a review will take place to assess the service viability.

Procurement

A framework agreement is in place for the procurement of Local and School Bus Services in Lancashire. All contracts are procured under this Framework by mini-competitions. This new service will be contained within an agreed individual contract in accordance with the terms of the Framework Agreement.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
None		
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate		
N/A		