

Report to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport
Report submitted by: Head of Service, Public and Integrated Transport
Date Monday, 8 February 2017

Part I - Item No. 1

Electoral Divisions affected:
Amounderness; Fleetwood
East; Fylde East; Fylde
West; Poulton le Fylde;
Preston Central South;
Preston City; Preston North
West; Preston Rural;
Thornton Cleveleys Central;
Thornton Cleveleys North;
Wyreside;

Review of Tendered Bus Services in Wyre and Fylde
(Appendix 'A' refer)

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

This report recommends revisions to the tendered bus service network in Wyre and Fylde which will utilise a Section 106 funding contribution to extend the tendered bus service in the Amounderness Way area of Fleetwood and, as a consequence, also maintain a bus service link for Elswick and Great Eccleston.

Recommendation

The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport is recommended to:

- (i) Approve the proposed revisions to the tendered bus service network in Wyre and Fylde as set out in the report and at Appendix 'A';
- (ii) Request that officers undertake the necessary contract variation process to allow the service revisions to commence on 20 February 2017.

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 revised tendered bus service network will commence on 20 February 2017.

Background and Advice

In 2007 the owners and developers of land at Amounderness Way, Fleetwood entered into a Unilateral Undertaking pursuant to Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 which included for the provision of a bus service operating between the development, known as Windward Avenue and Fleetwood Town Centre after an agreed level of residential occupation, for a period of five years.

From 20 February 2017, Coastal Coaches is revising its commercial local bus Service 78, which operates between St Annes, Lytham, Warton, Freckleton, Kirkham and Wesham extending certain journeys through to Poulton via Elswick and Great Eccleston.

The route and timetable will be revised, terminating the service at Wesham and no longer operating journeys through to Poulton. The hourly extension from Wesham through to Poulton via Elswick and Great Eccleston as well as the peak journey extensions beyond Poulton through to Blackpool 6th Form College will be withdrawn.

The impact for Lancashire residents is the removal of the public transport links between Elswick and Great Eccleston with Kirkham and Poulton.

Prior to the Public Transport budget reductions in April 2016, this section of route was part of Lancashire County Council's tendered service network. Coastal Coaches decided to operate the section of route on a commercial basis as an extension to their Service 78 hoping it would become commercially sustainable.

There are no statutory entitled students travelling on this section of route, however there are a regular 12 to 15 higher education students attending Blackpool 6th Form College.

Following discussions with other bus service providers, none are immediately willing to provide a replacement bus service on this route on a commercial basis.

Assessment and Priority

According to ticket machine and on bus survey data there are approximately 20,000 annual passenger trips made (65 per day) on the section of Service 78 route between Wesham and Poulton (including Blackpool 6th Form College).

Whilst half of the total passenger trips are made by English National Concessionary pass-holders, the other passenger classes are a mixture of both adults and students using the service for accessing Kirkham, Poulton and Blackpool 6th Form College.

It has been assessed that a PTS is in principle needed. Based on the current level of passenger journeys accessing the bus service, a replacement service would also rank as a high priority for the consideration of a supported PTS.

Proposal

It is proposed to revise the tendered bus service network in Wyre and Fylde through the use of the Amounderness Way Development Section 106 funding contribution to

extend a tendered bus service to serve the Windward Avenue area of Fleetwood. This revision will also maintain public transport service links for Elswick and Great Eccleston whilst reinstating the hourly Monday to Saturday daytime service between Fleetwood, Poulton, Kirkham and Preston with connections to Blackpool and Victoria Hospital, all as summarised below.

Service 74 Poulton – Victoria Hospital – Blackpool

It is proposed to revise the route and timetable, adjusting the service to operate between Poulton and Blackpool only. The service will maintain a timed connection with Services 75 & 75A from Fleetwood and Thornton, but will also provide timed connections from eastern side of the routes (between Preston and Poulton) for journeys to Victoria Hospital and Blackpool.

The service will operate every hour Monday to Saturday daytime.

Service 75 Fleetwood – Poulton – Weeton – Kirkham – Preston

It is proposed to revise the route and timetable, adjusting the route between Fleetwood and Thornton to serve Windward Avenue estate to fulfil the terms of the developer funding.

The service will operate every two hours Monday to Saturday daytime. In conjunction with the Service 75A, a combined hourly service will be provided on the following sections:

- between Fleetwood, Thornton and Poulton on the same route;
- between the end to end key destinations of Fleetwood, Poulton, Kirkham and Preston;
- between Kirkham, Riversway and Preston on the same route.

In revising the route to serve Windward Avenue, it would result in the section of Pheasants Wood in Thornton no longer being able to be served due to restrictions within the timetable.

However, the Pheasants Wood area in Thornton is currently served by both LCC's tendered bus service and Catch22bus Ltd's commercial bus Service 23. In December 2016, Catch22bus extended Service 23 to now link the area with Cleveleys, Thornton and Poulton centres as well as Victoria Hospital. Catch22bus Ltd has also made a request for the withdrawal of the tendered bus service from Tennyson Avenue and Marsh Road to enable their commercial Service 23 to additionally serve these roads.

With the recent expansion of Catch22bus Ltd's bus service, the tendered bus service now risks undermining the economic viability of this commercial service and on that basis the council's Assessment and Priority Policy supports the proposal to withdraw from this area.

According to ticket machine and on bus survey data there are approximately 1,200 annual passenger trips made (4 per day) end to end between the Pheasants Wood area and Fleetwood. The revised Service 75 will continue to be accessible for journeys north to Fleetwood at all bus stops along Fleetwood Road.

The proposed revision of the tendered bus service route between Fleetwood and Poulton will improve overall service reliability, whilst maintaining a connection for the wider Thornton community for links to Fleetwood, Poulton, Victoria Hospital, Blackpool and Preston.

Service 75A Fleetwood – Poulton – Elswick – Kirkham – Preston

It is proposed to introduce this service to retain the existing level of service between Fleetwood, Thornton and Poulton on the same route as the revised Service 75, and also maintain public transport service links between Elswick and Great Eccleston with Kirkham and Poulton, following the withdrawal of Service 78 from these areas.

The service will operate every two hours Monday to Saturday daytime. In conjunction with the Service 75, a combined hourly service will be provided on the following sections:

- between Fleetwood, Thornton and Poulton on the same route;
- between the end to end key destinations of Fleetwood, Poulton, Kirkham and Preston;
- between Kirkham, Riversway and Preston on the same route.

A single am & pm journey will extend on college days to serve Blackpool Sixth Form College

Service 80 Myerscough – Elswick – Inskip – Preston

It is proposed to revise the route and timetable, adjusting the route between Ashton and Preston to serve the Maudland Bank area. This will maintain the link to Preston Railway Station whilst avoiding both duplicating Service 75A through Riversway and other commercial bus services on Fylde Road.

The service will continue to operate every two hours Monday to Saturday daytime. In conjunction with the Service 75A, a combined hourly service will be provided between the end to end key destinations of Great Eccleston, Elswick and Preston;

As with all tendered bus services, the performance of these service revisions will be closely monitored to confirm that they are achieving their transport objectives and are delivering value for money.

Recommendation

The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport is recommended to approve the proposed revisions to tendered bus services in Wyre and Fylde as set out in the report and at Appendix 'A' and request that officers undertake the necessary contract variation process to allow the service revisions to commence on 20 February 2017.

Consultations

The divisional County Councillors have been advised of the proposed revisions to the public transport services in Wyre and Fylde. The responses received have welcomed the service revisions.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

Without the proposed revisions to the network of tendered bus services in Wyre, it would not be possible to utilise the Amounderness Way Development Section 106 funding required to extend services in Fleetwood, or amend the services to maintain public transport links for Elswick and Great Eccleston.

Financial

These revisions will be accommodated, subject to the diversion of the bus service through Fleetwood Windward Avenue, within the Amounderness Way Development Section 106 funding of £109,000 per annum. This funding will be provided in each of the next 5 years. Prior to the cessation of this funding, a review will take place to assess any funding shortfall that may arise at that time.

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 revision will be contained within an agreed individual contract variation in accordance with the terms of the Framework Agreement.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
Report to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport – 'Assessment and Priority Policy for Public Transport Services in Lancashire'	12 December 2016	Dave Gorman/ (01772) 534261

Decision Taken: Declarations

insert Leader, Deputy Leader, or Cabinet Member for (title) - as appropriate

Insert title of item

Original recommendation, as set out in the report, approved without amendment. Yes/No *

Original recommendation amended and decision as follows: Yes/No *
insert details or delete instruction as appropriate

I have a pecuniary/non-pecuniary interest in this matter. Yes/No *

If an interest is declared please give details below:
insert details or delete instruction as appropriate

.....
insert Leader, Deputy Leader or Cabinet
Member for (title) - as appropriate

Date insert date

Chief Officer

I certify that this is an appropriate and accurate record within the terms of Standing Order 35(2) and (3) of the decision taken by the Cabinet Member.

.....
insert title of authorising officer

Date insert date

*Delete as appropriate