

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 13 July 2017

Report of the Head of Service, Public and Integrated Transport

Part I

Electoral Divisions affected:
South Ribble East; and
Preston City

Preston Park & Ride – Walton-le-Dale

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

This report recommends the procurement of a replacement service for the Walton-le-Dale Park & Ride site for 6 months whilst longer term options for the continuation of the service are identified.

Recommendation

The Cabinet is recommended to:

- (i) Approve the procurement of a bus service for the Walton-Le-Dale Park & Ride service on an initial 6 month contract.
- (ii) Request that officers undertake the necessary procurement process to allow the replacement service to commence on 24 July 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 the continued operation of the Park & Ride service from the Walton-Le-Dale site from 24 July 2017.

Background and Advice

Preston City Centre is served by two Park & Ride services:

- The Portway Park & Ride service incorporates both the Portway and Hartington Road car parks. The Portway Park & Ride is served by a commercial bus service (service 89 to Lea and Larches). The service operates through the Portway site as part of its wider journey and is

supplemented by a dedicated commercial service in peak morning hours to meet the demand from city centre workers wanting to use the service.

- The Walton-le-Dale Park & Ride site is currently operated with a dedicated commercial service (service 1).

Both services are operated by Rotala Preston Bus (PBT) with no financial support for the services from the County Council.

On Friday 19th May 2017, PBT formally advised the county council of their decision to deregister the Walton-Le-Dale Park & Ride service with the statutory 56 days (8 weeks) notice. The last day of operation will therefore be Saturday 22 July 2017.

The Portway Park & Ride service is unaffected and will continue to operate unchanged.

Assessment and Priority Policy for Public Transport Services

Walton-le-Dale Park & Ride currently operates a frequent service of at least every 10 minutes Monday to Saturday daytime, between around 0700 and 1930.

According to ticket machine data and on-bus surveys there are approximately 290,000 annual passenger trips (950 per day) made on the route.

The service provides an important component in reducing congestion within Preston City Centre and it has been assessed that a Public Transport Service can in principle be justified.

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

Proposal

In order to continue the long term operation of a Park & Ride service, in some form, from the Walton-le-Dale site, it is proposed a short term contract is procured to continue the service as it currently operates whilst officers investigate and assess all options that are available to the County Council.

Consultations

The County Councillors for the Electoral Divisions affected have been notified of the situation and the proposal outlined in this report.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

Without the proposed short term contract, the Park & Ride service from the Walton-Le-Dale site will cease to operate from Monday 24 July 2017. This will result in no

Park & Ride service being offered from the site which may lead to an increase in congestion in the city centre as users will have to find alternative parking arrangements in the city.

Financial

The estimated financial implications are set out at Appendix 'A'.

The contract cost of providing the service for 6 months is estimated to be £104,000. This will be offset by estimated revenue retained from the service of £110,000 resulting in surplus of £6,000. In addition the County Council will have to fund site running costs including business rates and utility costs which to date have been met by the commercial operator. These are estimated to be £33,000 for 6 months. The total estimated net cost of providing the service for 6 months is £27,000 (as outlined in Appendix 'A') which will be met from the Transitional Reserve in 2017/18 and adjusted for in the Medium Term Financial Strategy from 2018/19 in line with the budget amendment covered in a separate report. The County Council is currently responsible for maintenance of the site and these costs are met by an annual budget allocation of circa £11,000.

If a Park & Ride service is not provided then the net cost is estimated to be £33,000 over the same period (£66,000 per annum) for site management costs which would be funded from the Transitional Reserve in 2017/18 and adjusted for in the Medium Term Financial Strategy from 2018/19.

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

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A