

Report to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport
Report submitted by: Head of Service, Public and Integrated Transport
Date: 10 November 2016

Part I

Electoral Divisions affected:
Clitheroe,
Ribble Valley North East,
Ribble Valley South West,
Longridge with Bowland,
and Burnley Central West

Review of Tendered Bus Services in Ribble Valley
(Appendices 'A' and 'B' refer)

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Executive Summary

This report recommends revisions to the tendered bus service network in Ribble Valley which will make use of a Ribble Meadows Development Section 106 funding contribution to extend the tendered bus service in the Henthorn area of Clitheroe and which would also facilitate a bus service link for Sabden.

This is deemed to be a Key Decision and the provisions of Standing Order No 25 have been complied with.

Recommendation

The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport is recommended to:

- (i) Approve the proposed revisions to the tendered bus service network in Ribble Valley as set out at Appendix 'A';
- (ii) Request that officers undertake the necessary contract variation process to allow the service revisions to commence on 5 December 2016.

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 5 December 2016.

Background and Advice

In 2012 the owners and developers of Henthorn Farm, Henthorn Road, Clitheroe 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 Ribble Meadows, and Clitheroe Town Centre after an agreed level of residential occupation, for a period of five years.

On 8 March 2016 the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, approved a schedule of tendered bus service replacements across Lancashire from April 2016.

In May 2016 Transdev withdrew its Mainline commercial bus service from Sabden removing all regular public transport links. This has affected all types of passenger journeys, for employment, education, medical and leisure.

Following discussions with bus service providers, none have been willing to provide a replacement bus service through Sabden on a commercial basis. The Community Transport provider operating in the area has also indicated that they were not in a position to provide a more regular service than their single weekly return journey to Clitheroe at this current time.

The County Council has held a number of meetings/discussions with representatives from the Ribble Valley Borough and Sabden Parish Councils and from Sabden village to explore the possibility of establishing a community based transport solution the area. However, it has not been possible for a satisfactory sustainable proposal to be developed at this time.

Proposal

It is proposed to revise the tendered bus service network in Ribble Valley through the use of a Ribble Meadows Development Section 106 funding contribution to extend the tendered bus service in the Henthorn area of Clitheroe. This revision will also enable a limited public transport service for Sabden to be provided, all as summarised below.

Service 2 Clitheroe Town Service

It is proposed to revise the route and timetable to no longer serve Peel Park but extend the route around Lune Road within the Henthorn Ribble Meadows Development. This extension will be funded through the local planning Section 106 agreement.

The service will continue to operate every 30 minutes Monday to Saturday daytime, whilst Peel Park will be served by the reinstated Service 4 and revised Service 5.

Service 4 Clitheroe – Peel Park – Whalley – Sabden – Padiham

It is proposed to reinstate Service 4 to provide a replacement route for Peel Park area of Clitheroe, removed by the extension of Clitheroe Town Service 2 into Henthorn. With the revisions to other services and to ensure efficient use of the resources available, it is proposed to extend this service through Whalley to Sabden and Padiham.

The service will operate generally every two hours Monday to Saturday daytime, and incorporate tendered School Bus Service 634 for students from Sabden to Clitheroe Royal Grammar School. The route between Clitheroe and Whalley serving Peel Park will penetrate more of the area at the request of local residents and will operate hourly, in conjunction with Service 5.

Service 5 Clitheroe – Peel Park – Whalley – Longridge – Chipping

It is proposed to revise the route and timetable to continue providing a two-hourly Monday to Saturday daytime service between Chipping and Clitheroe. The route between Clitheroe and Whalley serving Peel Park will penetrate more of the area at the request of local residents and will operate hourly, in conjunction with Service 4. In conjunction with the Service 35, an hourly service between Longridge and Ribchester will be maintained.

Service 35 (Chipping) – Longridge – Blackburn

It is proposed to revise the timetable to continue providing a two-hourly Monday to Saturday daytime service between Longridge and Blackburn. In conjunction with the Service 5, an hourly service will be maintained between Longridge and Ribchester, together with the existing connecting journeys to Chipping.

Service 634 Sabden – Clitheroe Schools

It is proposed this service will be amalgamated within the reinstated Service 4 and students will travel on this service.

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 service in Ribble Valley as set out at Appendix 'A' and request that officers undertake the necessary contract variation process to allow the service revisions to commence on 5 December 2016.

Consultations

The proposed revisions to the routes within Clitheroe incorporate suggestions put forward by local residents since the major service revisions in April 2016. The inclusion of Sabden within the proposed revised services follows the requests by local elected representatives and residents for a replacement service to be provided.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

Without the proposed revisions to the network of tendered bus services in Ribble Valley, it would not be possible to utilise the Ribble Meadows Development Section

106 funding required to extend services in Henthorn, or amend the services to provide public transport access for Sabden.

Financial

These revisions can be accommodated within existing resources, as detailed in Appendix 'B', subject to the extension of the bus service through to Henthorn requiring the utilisation of the Ribble Meadows Development Section 106 funding of £55,000 per annum. This funding will be provided in each of the next 5 years. Following the ceasing of this funding a review will need to take place due to the funding shortfall that may arise at that time.

Included within these figures is the projection of an additional £21,000 per annum in generated fares revenue together with the incorporation of the existing dedicated School Bus Service 634 between Sabden and Clitheroe. In order to allow for the early implementation date, there will be a one-off cost (approximately £5,000) due to the overlap between the revised service commencing and the school bus contract coming to an end. This one-off cost will be met from within the 2016/17 revenue budget for bus services.

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 - 'Revised Criteria for Assessing Subsidised Bus Services'	9 December 2014	Jane Johnson/ (01772) 534374
Report to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport – 'Recommendations of the Cabinet Working Group on Bus Services - Bus Service Replacement Proposals '	8 March 2016	Jane Johnson/ (01772) 534374

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A