
Report to: Transport Committee

Date: 11 January 2019

Subject: **Bus Service Matters Referred From District Consultation Sub-Committees**

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Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information or appendices?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, state paragraph number of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, Part 1:	

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To consider matters relating to bus services referred from the Wakefield and Bradford District Consultation Sub-Committees.

2. Information

Front Street Castleford

- 2.1 Prior to summer 2017, M Travel operated service 134 between Pontefract and Castleford via Front Street Castleford. In the summer M Travel lost their licence to operate bus services on the grounds of poor maintenance. Arriva stepped in to replace the service on a commercial basis without subsidy
- 2.2 In September 2018 Arriva, having given the service 12 months operation, withdrew it on the grounds that it was not commercially viable. Buses between Castleford and Pontefract operate via the Junction 32 Retail and Leisure Park and not via Front Street. Options to divert other services have been explored with bus operators however, the alternative route is via the retail park is more attractive for them commercially.

- 2.3 As a result, the Front Street area of Castleford (main stop outside the Malt Shovel pub) has no bus service to Castleford. It is served by a half hourly service 410 to Pontefract and Leeds.
- 2.4 The walking distance to the nearest stops to get a bus to Castleford are within 400m on Holywell Lane or Leeds Road but it is a long distance for those who are mobility impaired. The walking distance to Castleford town centre is 1.25 miles (30 minutes' walk).
- 2.5 Councillor Wallis (the local Ward Member) attended the Wakefield District Consultation Subcommittee (DCSC) and asked for consideration of a service for local residents to get to Castleford. A petition was also subsequently received for reinstatement of the service. The Wakefield DCSC recommended that this matter should be discussed at Transport Committee
- 2.6 The guidelines set by the Transport Committee at its meeting in July 2018 are aimed at providing bus services to communities who would not otherwise have a service. Whilst accepting that the community does not have a link to its nearest town centre, it is served by bus links to Pontefract and Leeds and therefore the Combined Authority would not fund an additional service in this instance.
- 2.7 The Combined Authority will however continue to explore options to link this area with Castleford town centre including utilisation of Section 106 funding to enable bus access to new housing and employment sites in the immediate vicinity.

Lister Park and West Bowling, Bradford

- 2.8 Issues have emerged in Bradford following changes to bus services operated by First in October. There were discussed at the Bradford District Consultation Subcommittee who asked for the matters to be brought to the Transport Committee
- 2.9 Prior to October 2018 service 680 operated half hourly between Bradford and Bradford Royal Infirmary (BRI) via Heaton and Lister Park. Once per hour the service extended through to Bingley via Cottingley under contract to the Authority and provides a service to areas that otherwise would not be served and also a direct link from North West Bradford to Bradford Royal infirmary. Passenger use of the Combined Authority funded extension of the service beyond BRI is within the Committee's guidelines for support.
- 2.10 Following a review of the viability of the service First West Yorkshire decided to withdraw the commercial "short" journeys between Bradford and BRI leaving the community of Lister Park with an hourly service into Bradford and BRI. The Lister Park Community Action Group attended the Bradford DCSC in October to register their disappointment with the reduction in service and to press First to restore the service back to half hourly.

- 2.11 The Transport Committee's guidelines are aimed at providing bus services to communities who would not otherwise have a service. Following the changes, the Lister Park continues to have an hourly bus service. On this basis, the Combined Authority would not fund a restoration of the half hourly service.
- 2.12 Until October 2018 service 633 operated half hourly between Bradford and West Bowling. West Bowling is largely served by a frequent bus service on Manchester Road. 633 operates on streets within the area to serve people who would otherwise have a walk of up to 0.5 miles (10 minute walk) to Manchester Road, Following a review of the commercial viability of this service, First West Yorkshire reduced the frequency of service to hourly into Bradford.
- 2.13 Councillor Sajawal attended the Bradford DCSC with a petition from 700 residents for part restoration of the half hourly service (0930 until 1400 approx.). This request has forwarded to First who stated that the half hourly operation was not being commercially viable however the company undertook to review the timings of the hourly service to better meet established travel patterns. The Bradford DCSC recommended that this matter should be discussed at Transport Committee
- 2.14 As is the case with the Lister Park service, the Committee's guidelines do not provide for increasing frequencies to communities which are currently served by an hourly bus service.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

5. Staffing Implications

- 5.1 There are no staffing implications directly arising from this report.

6. External Consultees

- 6.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1 That the Transport Committee notes the representations submitted to the Wakefield District Consultation Subcommittee regarding bus services to Park Road Castleford

- 7.2 That the Director, Transport Services advises the petitioners that the Combined Authority is unable to provide an additional bus service in the Castleford area for the reasons described in this report.
- 7.3 That the Transport Committee notes the representations submitted to the Bradford District Consultation Subcommittee regarding bus services in the Lister Park and West Bowling areas
- 7.4 That the Director, Transport Services advises the petitioners that the Combined Authority is unable to increase the frequency of service the Lister Park and West Bowling areas for the reasons described in this report.

8. Background Documents

None.

9. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Glasshoughton Petition, submitted by the petitioners to the respective District Consultation Sub-Committee.

Appendix 2 – 633 Petition, submitted by the petitioners to the respective District Consultation Sub-Committee.

Appendix 3 - Guidelines approved by the July 2018 Transport Committee.