

Single Member Cabinet Decision

**Executive
Forward Plan
Reference**

E2925

Bath – Frome supported evening bus service

Decision maker	Cllr Anthony Clarke, Cabinet Member for Transport
The Issue	To cease the contract for supported evening bus services between Bath and Frome as this does not represent good value for the money for the Council.
Decision Date	13 January 2017
The decision	<p>The Cabinet Member agrees that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Council should give notice to terminate the contract with First Somerset & Avon Ltd for evening bus service 267 operating between Bath and Frome. 2. The Council should make a contribution of £2,250 towards the cost of retaining the service on Mondays to Thursdays provided that the balance of the cost is met by other local authorities along the route
Rationale for decision	<p>The current level of usage by B&NES residents does not justify the level of subsidy required to maintain the service.</p> <p>Somerset County Council have confirmed that they could not restore the contribution they previously made to the cost of the service</p> <p>The proposal by First to provide commercial operation of the services on the busiest evenings of the week mitigates some of the adverse impacts of the cancellation of the contract.</p> <p>The Council is prepared to offer a proportionate financial contribution towards the cost of retaining the Monday –Thursday evening service in line with the level of use of the services by B&NES residents.</p>
Financial and budget implications	<p>The cancellation of the contract will result in annual saving of £19,528 from the 2017/18 supported services budget. The savings will take effect from the end of April 2017, so the saving in the financial year will be £17,983. This saving is part of the Strategic Review of Transport and will support the achievement of the 2017/18 target.</p> <p>This saving will be offset by the commitment of £2,250 provided that other Authorities contribute to the cost of retaining the Monday-Thursday evening service.</p>
Issues considered (these are covered in more detail in the report)	Social Inclusion; Sustainability; Young People; Equality (age, race, disability)

Consultation undertaken	Ward Councillors; Cabinet Members; Parish Council; Town Council; Service Users; Community Interest Groups; Stakeholders/Partners; Other Public Sector Bodies; Section 151 Finance Officer; Chief Executive; Monitoring Officer
How consultation was carried out	Members, parishes, operators, and stakeholders within B&NES were written to, and the consultation was published on the Council website. The consultation was also circulated to Somerset County Council as the affected Local Transport Authority. In addition the consultation was circulated directly to members of Mendip District Council, and to parishes and user groups in Somerset who had previously expressed an interest in the service.
Other options considered	The Council has considered the option of taking no action at the present time and leaving the issue to be considered by the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority at the time of expiry of the current contract in August 2019. This would mean that one of the savings for 2017-18 identified in the Strategic Review of Transport and assumed to have been made in the budget being transferred to WEMCA would not be delivered, requiring further savings from other services.
Declaration of interest by Cabinet Member(s) for decision, including any dispensation granted:	No Interest to declare
Any conflict of interest declared by anyone who is consulted by a Member taking the decision:	Not applicable
Signature of Decision Maker	
Date of Signature	
Subject to Call-in until 5 Working days have elapsed following publication of the decision	