

Single Member Cabinet Decision

**Executive
Forward Plan
Reference**

E3456

2 month extension of supported bus service 672

Decision maker/s	Cllr Warren, Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency and Sustainable Travel Cllr Samuel, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources
The Issue	The case for funding a further 2 month extension to the supported bus service 672.
Decision Date	Not before 17 Mar 2023.
The decision	The Cabinet Member agrees to Release up to £70,000 from the Council's earmarked public transport reserves to enable a 2 month extension to the 672 supported bus service until 30 July 2023.
Rationale for decision	<p>The unique geography and size of the Chew Valley, and the distinct rural population combined with limited local services, necessitates this additional help.</p> <p>The 672 bus runs two return journeys each day on a circular route to and from Broadmead and Bedminster in Bristol out to the villages of the Chew Valley, including Dundry, Chew Magna, Stanton Drew, West Harptree and to Blagdon, Redhill and Bristol Airport.</p> <p>For many of the villages along its route, the 672 is the only public transport option for residents accessing employment, education, shopping and health appointments.</p> <p>There are no other commercial, supported or BSIP (Bus Service Improvement Plan) funded bus services which serve the Chew Valley.</p> <p>Extending the contract for the 672 until the end of July 2023 will provide a longer period for residents to transition to a new Demand Responsive Transport service and protect many critical journeys to education services until the end of the school term.</p>
Financial and budget implications	One-off funding has been identified from the Council's earmarked public transport reserve, and the use of the reserve has been approved by the Section 151 officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources and the Chief Executive.
Issues considered	Social Inclusion; Customer Focus; Sustainability; Young People; Equality (age, race, disability, religion/belief, gender, sexual orientation).

Consultation undertaken	Cabinet colleagues; Service Users; Local Residents; Community Interest Groups; Section 151 Finance Officer; Chief Executive; Monitoring Officer.
How consultation was carried out	Meetings, e-mail correspondence, phone-calls.
Other options considered	<p>Option 1: Do not fund further extensions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communities are concerned that the Demand Responsive Transport system will not be fully operational by the 3rd April. It is recognised that the bus services provide a vital link for our communities and therefore support is required where there are limited or no alternative public transport options to ensure continued access to key services including education, health facilities, and employment. <p>Option 2: Fund further transitional protection for all extended bus services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 82, 179, 768 and 172 routes all share elements of route which will be covered by the 522 Bus Service Improvement Plan service, which provides a 6 day a week, hourly service from April 2023. This service will support the Demand Responsive Transport system.
Declaration of interest by Cabinet Member(s) for decision:	
Any conflict of interest declared by anyone who is consulted by a Member taking the decision:	
Name and Signature of Decision Maker/s	<p>Cllr Warren, Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency and Sustainable Travel</p> <p>Cllr Samuel, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources</p>
Date of Signature	17 th March 2023
NOT Subject to Call-in	