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Our ref: PH/LH/19360
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Sent via email: gary.hall@chorley.gov.uk

Dear Gary

WITHDRAWAL OF BUS INFORMATION DISPLAY SYSTEMS: CHORLEY INTERCHANGE

Thank you for your recent letter concerning the above.

You raised a number of issues with regard to the information display systems and I set out the answers to the questions you raised below:

- 1. What was the reason behind choosing the five specific locations (including Chorley) for the withdrawal of the bus station information display systems? We assume there are other systems still being maintained across the County?***

The five locations are all part of a single contract and are the only sites in Lancashire where the bus information system is in place. No other bus stations in Lancashire have these signs and there are no other similar systems that we maintain in Lancashire.

- 2. Whilst we appreciate that difficult budget decisions have to be made, what is the actual direct cost saving in Chorley for the switch off?***

As the Chorley signs are part of a single contract, it is difficult to isolate the cost for Chorley alone. However, early negotiations with potential future suppliers suggested that there was likely to be a significant increase in costs as the current system has been operational for about 10 years and as a consequence of advancing technologies is either outdated or hardware is obsolete. The existing contract cost is £50k p.a.

3. There are continuing costs in maintaining the poster information, the Traveline and internet bus information systems – has a cost/benefit analysis been undertaken on the impact of the proposed changes?

No specific cost benefit analysis has been undertaken. The poster information, Traveline and internet systems are provided on a county wide basis and have a greater reach to potential passengers than display systems at Bus Stations.

4. As the information system is to help encourage greater use of public transport, have operators been asked to maintain or contribute to the maintenance of this service?

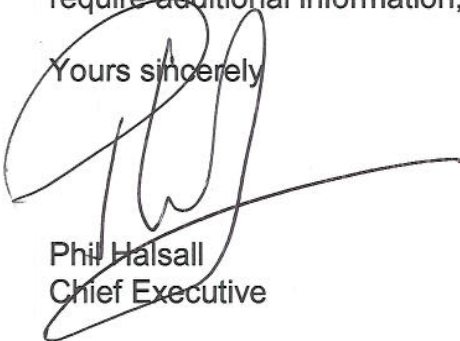
We have discussed the proposals with the major bus operators in Lancashire. A number have considered contributions but the costs associated are seen as prohibitive. Stagecoach, the major operator in Chorley, have said that they would not consider taking over any financial funding towards a replacement system

5. Has the Leader of the County Council raised this matter with his district counterparts?

The proposals form part of our three year budget strategy to reduce costs by £180m for which there has been much discussion at a political level and wide consultation.

I trust that you will find the above information useful, but if you have any queries or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Phil Halsall
Chief Executive