

Report to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport
Report submitted by: Head of Legal and Democratic Services
Date: 8 March 2016

Part I

Electoral Divisions affected:
All in Chorley

Bus Service Replacement Proposals in Chorley District

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Executive Summary

This report relates to representations made to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport by Chorley Councillors regarding the future of services 24a and 109a in the Chorley District which were due to cease on 2 April 2016.

This is deemed to be a Key Decision and the provisions of Standing Order 27 have been complied with.

The Director of Financial Resources has determined that the proposed decision is outside the Budget set by Full Council and therefore the provisions of Standing Order 29(1) have been complied with.

Recommendation

The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport is asked to approve the proposals set out in the report for a period of six months from 3 April 2016, subject to the satisfactory conclusion of discussions with Chorley Borough Council on the funding of the services as set out in the report.

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 proposed bus services are in place from 3 April 2016.

Background and Advice

The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport has received representations from Chorley Councillors regarding the future of services 24a and 109a in the Chorley District which were due to cease on 2 April 2016.

Having given careful consideration to the representations received and to the comments made particularly around the need to maintain vital employment and education connections, the Cabinet Member proposes to restore the evening and Sunday daytime bus services to accommodate the 24A and 109A routes.

Service 24A operates between Chorley and Blackburn via Wheelton, Brinscall, Withnell and Abbey Village. This service was previously cost shared with Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, which withdrew its contribution in April 2015.

Service 109A operates between Chorley and Chorley Hospital via Astley Village.

The Monday to Saturday daytime service on these routes is currently operated on a commercial basis by Transdev Lancashire United (24A) and Stagecoach in Lancashire (109A).

Discussions have taken place with Chorley Borough Council and, subject to final confirmation, it is proposed that the funding of the services will be for six months on the basis of a split with 70% from Chorley Borough Council and 30% from Lancashire County Council.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management and Financial

Should all the recommendations of the Cabinet Working Group on Bus Services, set out in a separate report, be approved, it is estimated that £100,000 of the £2m budget to support parish and community based transport provision will remain. It is proposed, subject to confirmation of the outcome of discussions with Chorley Borough Council, to use some of this remaining budget to fund the County Council's proposed 30% contribution to the funding of the services set out in this report.

The Director of Financial Resources has also determined that the proposed decision is outside the budget set by Full Council on the basis that the proposal to reintroduce a number of subsidised bus services cannot be regarded as being consistent with the £2m budget to "support parish and community transport" (BOP 041 as revised). The provisions of Standing Order 29(1) have therefore been complied with.

Procurement

A framework agreement is in place for the procurement of Local and School Bus Services in Lancashire. All contracts will be procured under this Framework by mini-competitions.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
N/A		