

LCC Transformation Update October 2017

Bus Services

Background

1. Lancashire County Council (LCC) is responsible for providing public transport services across the county. Following LCC's budget cuts and reductions in commercial services within the borough, Chorley Council stepped in to provide the funding to ensure that vital local bus services continued to operate whilst longer term options were developed.
2. Chorley Council has been funding the 24A/109A and 6/6A bus services since April 2016 when the council stepped in to fund these services following LCC's budget cuts.
3. Chorley Council has also been funding the temporary 7C service since February 2017, when the council stepped in to fund the service following the announcement of the withdrawal of the number 7 service by the commercial operator. The rationale for providing this funding was because the area now served by the 7C would have been left entirely without a bus service.

Update

4. A significant amount of work has been undertaken with local transport providers, Lancashire County Council and transport consultants to establish a model for providing services that reduce the amount of subsidy required whilst seeking to retain services to the areas covered by services supported by Chorley Council and developing them to become more sustainable.
5. Following the change in Administration at Lancashire County Council, discussions around future funding of the routes are taking place between LCC and Chorley Council regarding a cost sharing agreement. It is likely that Parish Council's along the routes will be contacted in the near future regarding contributions towards the funding of future services and more detail will be provided at the Chorley Liaison meeting.

Chorley Library Services

Background

6. Following the announcement that LCC was planning to close a number of libraries across the county, Chorley Council stepped in to provide funding to ensure that library services at Adlington, Coppull and Eccleston libraries remained open in Chorley.

7. However, a change in the Administration at Lancashire County Council has seen changes to the county policy with regards to libraries, and Chorley Council have been in discussions with LCC regarding future funding for the libraries.

Update

8. Lancashire County Council has confirmed that Adlington Library will continue to operate when current funding arrangements with Chorley Council come to an end in March 2018. LCC have also pledged to re-establish full library services in those libraries due to become satellites (Coppull and Eccleston). Further information can be found on the Lancashire County Council website by following this link - <http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/strategies-policies-plans/libraries-and-archives/reopening-libraries.aspx>
9. LCC have also announced a consultation on the pattern of opening hours they plan to allocate across the week to local libraries. Further information can be found on the Lancashire County Council consultation pages - <http://www3.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/consultation/responses/response.asp?ID=332>
10. Chorley Council is continuing discussions regarding the funding position for 2017/18 and currently awaits an update from the LCC. The Chorley Council Health and Wellbeing Team are continuing to provide support to any 'friends of' groups within Chorley where needed, to ensure that they have the relevant support required to enable them to continue their work within the local community.