

COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL

RECORD OF DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

Explanatory Note

The Leader of the Council has established Delegation Schemes by which certain decisions may be made by the relevant cabinet member or specific officers.

Cabinet member decisions are subject to review under the Call-in Procedure.

From the date the notice of the decision made is published there are five working days during which any five Councillors may sign a request for the decision to be reviewed (called in) and deliver it to the Proper Officer.

If, at the end of the period, no request has been made, the decision may be implemented. If a valid call- in request has been made, the matter will be referred to the Scrutiny Panel

Part A – To be completed by the appropriate Cabinet Member/Officer

Title of Report

ECC Local Bus Consultation

Delegated Power

To promote and procure the implementation of the Borough Council's Transport Strategy in partnership with Essex County Council, the responsible Transport Authority and other partners to improve infrastructure.

To promote partnership working with Essex County Council, the responsible Transport Authority.
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Decision Taken

Approval of Colchester Borough Council's response to the Essex County Council Local Bus Consultation.

Key Decision

No

Forward Plan

No

Reasons for the Decision

Organisations and individuals have been invited to respond to the ECC Local Bus Consultation 2019. The importance of public transport in Colchester is recognised, and the role it has in supporting the community, the economy and the environment.

Alternative Options

Not to respond – but this would mean that CBC does not take the opportunity to comment on public transport in the Borough.

Conflict of Interest

None

Dispensation by Head of Paid Service

None

Dispensation by Monitoring Officer

Specify any dispensation granted by the Monitoring Officer in relation to any conflict of interest in relation to the Members' Code of Conduct declared by the Portfolio Holder taking the decision.

Approved by Portfolio Holder for Strategy and Leader of the Council

Signature Councillor Mark Cory

Date 27/03/2019

(**NB** For Key Decisions the report must be made available to the public for five clear days prior to the period for call-in commencing)

Part B – To be completed by the Proper Officer (Democratic Services)

Portfolio Holder Decision Reference Number

Specify Number. WAS-006-18

Implementation Date

This decision can be implemented if no request for the decision to be reviewed (call-in) has been made **after 5pm on Thursday 4 April 2019**.

Call-in Procedure

The Decision Notice for this decision was published on the internet and placed in the Members' Room and the Customer Service Centre on Thursday 28 March 2019.

A request for reference to the Scrutiny Panel must be made by **5pm on Thursday 4 April 2019**.

Signature of Proper Officer Zoe Gentry



Portfolio Holder for Waste, Environment and Transportation

19 March 2019

Item

Report of	Assistant Director of Policy & Corporate	Author	Rachel Forkin ☎ 282625
Title	Essex County Council Local Bus Consultation		
Wards affected	All Wards		

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Essex County Council (ECC) is reviewing the way it supports local bus services which operate on evenings and Sundays. It does not include those which are run commercially across the Borough.
- 1.2 The Borough Council welcomes the consultation on the proposals for supported bus services in Essex and welcomes the approach to consulting bus users on their particular journeys and the impact any changes may have on that journey. The responses to this consultation, and bus patronage data, should be fully taken into account before any decisions on withdrawing bus services are made.
- 1.3 The Borough Council recognises that ECC is trying to make better use of limited public funding and that the proposals would continue to support the most well used journeys. However, many residents of the Borough rely on bus services for their journeys and the impact on these residents should be considered as part of this consultation.
- 1.4 The proposal for a two hourly frequency on all supported services on Sundays does not appear to be subject to the exception criteria of 6 regular passengers or more on board. The Borough Council considers that the consultation and bus patronage data should be considered before decisions are made to reduce supported Sunday services that currently operate on a higher frequency to a two-hourly frequency, and the impact on residents of reducing the Sunday service should be considered.
- 1.5 The Borough Council welcomes the proposal to consider, where appropriate, the use of smaller vehicles and demand responsive transport. In addition, the Borough Council suggests that all services should be better promoted to increase patronage in the future.

2. Recommended Decision

- 2.1 To approve Colchester Borough Council's response to the Essex County Council Local Bus Consultation.

3. Reason for Recommended Decision

- 3.1 Organisations and individuals have been invited to respond to the ECC Local Bus Consultation 2019. The importance of public transport in Colchester is recognised, and the role it has in supporting the community, the economy and the environment.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 Not to respond – but this would mean that CBC does not take the opportunity to comment on public transport in the Borough.

5. Background Information

Local Bus Consultation

- 5.1 Essex County Council is reviewing the way it supports local bus services which operate on evenings and Sundays. Commercial bus services, which include most of the daytime and peak period services in and between towns, do not form part of this review. The majority of the bus network in Essex (around 85%) is run commercially. The remaining 15% of services are not commercially viable and the commercial bus operators will not therefore run them. As the local transport authority, where no commercial service is provided, the County Council has a duty to consider whether one is needed and, if in the Council's view it is, then to provide it.
- 5.2 The consultation is aimed particularly at users of the affected bus services, and respondents can comment on the specific bus services they use, in addition to commenting on the policy proposals.
- 5.3 How the County Council decides whether a service is needed and what services it will support are set out in its Local Bus Strategy 2015 to 2020. This can be found here <https://www.essexhighways.org/uploads/files/local%20bus%20service%20priority%20policy%202015%20to%202020.pdf>. CBC responded to consultation on the ECC Bus Strategy in March 2015. CBC also responded to the ECC Local Bus Service Network Review in October 2015. This response is consistent with the previous responses.
- 5.4 The consultation is set out in 3 sections and outlines the proposals that ECC is considering including: the level of service funded in the evening and on Sundays; proposals to get the right type of service to meet travel needs by making more use of alternative ways for providing services; and giving people more control over what, when and where services are run by adopting a policy of devolution.

Evening Services

- 5.5 ECC supported evening services tend to run after commercial services finish and allow people to travel to and from work, study, leisure and shopping. ECC have looked at passenger data over a full year to understand how these services are used. This has shown that in general later buses running in the evening tend to have fewer people using them. On average, on weekdays after 22:00 passenger numbers on supported services drop to below 6. On Saturday there is a similar drop in passenger numbers after 23:00. However, there are some exceptions so a simple cut off time could affect some well used journeys. Therefore ECC is proposing to have a general policy that would:
- Continue to fund the existing journeys on evening services that depart before 22:00 on weekdays or before 23:00 on Saturdays;
 - Consider funding specific additional journeys starting after these times that meet a specific 'exception' criteria which is 'we will continue to support current evening services up until the times stated and would consider funding, as an exception to the policy, any journeys after those times that have 6 regular passengers or more on board'. This proposed exception criteria is being considered as part of this consultation.
 - Continue to consider the cost of £5 per passenger journey criteria as set out in the Essex Local Bus Priority Policy 2015 to 2020.
- 5.6 The evening bus services in Colchester Borough under consultation are listed below. Current evening services on all routes, including those listed below, would continue to be supported up until 22:00 on weekday evenings, and up to 23:00 on Saturday evenings.

Further details of the specific journeys on these routes that are affected by this consultation can be seen in Appendix 1. Where elements of a service are run commercially, these are not part of the consultation.

- 1A Ambrose Avenue to Greenstead
- 2A Highwoods to Great Horkesley
- 64/64A Greenstead to St Michaels Estate/Shrub End/Layer de la Haye
- 66 Colchester Station to Rowhedge
- 66B West Bergholt to Colchester and Old Heath
- 68 Highwoods to West Mersea
- 71A Chelmsford to Colchester
- 74B Clacton to Colchester
- 88/88A Colchester to Halstead
- 102 Colchester to Harwich

Sunday Services

- 5.7 ECC Sunday supported services allow passengers to travel for a variety of reasons including work, leisure activities and shopping. Passenger data shows that journeys running between 08:00 and 19:00 on Sundays are the most heavily used. Outside of these times, passenger numbers drop to below 6 on average. However, again there are some exceptions, so a simple cut off time could affect some well used journeys. In addition, the frequency largely determines the number of buses required and the cost of the service to the Council. Therefore, ECC have looked at the frequency and how services can be run that meet people's needs but still offer the best value to the taxpayer.
- 5.8 ECC are therefore proposing a new supported Sunday services policy that focuses on those services that are most well used, but has flexibility to deal with exceptions so that as many journeys as possible can be supported. This means ECC would:
- Fund current Sunday services departing between the hours of 08:00 and 19:00
 - Set a two hourly frequency for these services
 - Consider funding specific additional journeys against a set of exceptions criteria which is based on any journeys outside of those times that have 6 regular passengers or more on board.
 - Continue to consider the cost of £5 per passenger journey criteria.
- 5.9 The Sunday services affected in Colchester are:
- 1A Ambrose Avenue to Greenstead
 - 2A Highwoods to Great Horkesley
 - 66 Colchester to West Bergholt
 - 66 Colchester to Rowhedge
 - 70 Colchester to Chelmsford
 - 71C Chelmsford to Colchester
 - 75 Maldon to Colchester
 - 102 Colchester to Harwich
 - 106 Colchester to Harwich
- 5.10 For both evening and Sunday services, the exceptional support would only be possible where the necessary funding is available from the allocated local bus budget.

Other Proposals

- 5.11 The consultation also sets out a proposed change in policy that will apply across Essex and for all County Council contracted services. Currently the County Council usually specifies conventional timetabled local bus services and standard buses to provide most of the services it pays for. However, given the pressures on funding for local bus services and the need to provide transport as efficiently and effectively as possible, ECC are considering what type of transport service best meets the travel needs in a community or area. In some cases conventional bus services may not be well used or efficient. For example some journeys may not need a full size bus. Or conventionally timetabled services may not be the best way to address travel needs. The County Council are therefore considering making wider use of services requiring smaller vehicles and of demand responsive transport – transport that runs when it is needed.
- 5.12 Responses to the consultation will be considered and an announcement of how ECC intends to proceed will be made in the summer of 2019. New services would then become operational from 28th March 2020.

CBC Response to Consultation

- 5.13 The Borough Council welcomes the consultation and engagement on the proposals for supported bus services in Essex. It also welcomes the approach to consulting residents and bus users on their particular journeys and the impact that any changes to evening or weekend bus services would have on their journey as this will provide detailed information on the impact of this proposal. This will include information on those passengers that would not have an alternative way to make that journey and this information, in addition to bus patronage data, should be taken into account before decisions to withdraw services are made.
- 5.14 The Borough Council recognises that ECC is trying to make better use of limited public funding and that the County Council has to look at how it provides services to make sure that the limited funding available is focussed where it will do most good. The proposal for supported evening services would continue to support the most well used journeys and focuses support on the times at which most people are travelling. However, many residents of the Borough rely on bus services for their journeys and therefore the results of the consultation should be considered fully before changes are made.
- 5.15 Where bus services are well used, or are close to the 6 regular passengers per service criteria, accessibility planning would enable analysis of the impact that changes could have on access between residential areas across Colchester and key locations such as employment and health destinations. The impact on the night time economy should also be considered if weekend evening bus services are being withdrawn.
- 5.16 The proposals to reduce all Sunday supported services to a two-hourly frequency appears to be across all services running between the hours of 08:00 and 19:00 and this does not appear to be subject to the proposed exception criteria of 6 regular passengers or more on board. Although most supported Sunday services in the Borough already operate on a two hourly frequency, a few operate on a higher frequency, including the 1A between Ambrose Avenue and Greenstead and the 2A between Highwoods and Great Horkesley. Any changes to the frequency of services should take into consideration current passenger numbers and response to this consultation before a decision is made to reduce the frequency of these services. A reduction from a 30 minute service to a two-hourly frequency could have a significant impact on the use of that service and may impact residents in areas where they rely on the bus for their journeys. Exceptions to the

policy to reduce all services to a two-hourly frequency on Sunday services should be considered if there is a significant impact on passengers and the accessibility of residential areas in Colchester.

- 5.17 In response to previous consultations, we have suggested that services should be better promoted to increase patronage. Increased promotion of services, in addition to improvements to the customer experience, could increase patronage and potentially make more of the supported evening and weekend services commercially viable in the future.
- 5.18 The Borough Council welcomes the proposal to consider, where appropriate, a move away from the traditional bus service to use smaller vehicles and demand responsive transport. This approach is supported by Colchester Borough Council and the Borough Council welcomes consideration of alternative ways of providing bus services that will serve the needs of current passengers, including demand responsive transport, that provide more efficient and cost effective services, while potentially encouraging more journeys by bus.

6. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications

- 6.1 There are no Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications in relation to this report. It is assumed that Equality Impact Assessments will be carried out by ECC to assess any proposals to reduce bus services in Colchester.

7. Standard References

- 7.1 This is a response to an Essex County Council consultation. There are no particular references to the Strategic Plan; consultation or publicity considerations or financial; community safety; health and safety or risk management implications.

Appendix A: Monday to Saturday Services ECC Local Bus Consultation
Appendix B: Sunday Bus Services ECC Local Bus Consultation

Appendix A - Consultation on Monday to Saturday Evening Services

Service	Days of operation	Route	Operator
1	Monday to Saturday	Sumners - Passmores - Central Harlow Journey departing from Harlow Bus Station at: 2218 Journeys departing from Sumners at: 2200 & 2230	Arriva
1A	Monday to Saturday	Ambrose Avenue - Greenstead Journeys departing from Ambrose Avenue at: 2215, 2245 & 2315 Journeys departing from Greenstead at: 2215, 2245 & 2315	First
2	Monday to Saturday	Harlow - Passmores - Staple Tye Journey departing from Harlow Rail Station at: 2240	Arriva
2A	Monday to Saturday	Highwoods - Great Horkesley Journey departing from Highwoods at: 2226 & 2326 Journey departing from Great Horkesley at: 2258	First
4	Monday to Saturday	Latton Bush - Bush Fair - Tye Green - Central Harlow Journey departing from Harlow Bus Station at: 2237 Journey departing from Latton Bush at: 2246	Arriva
4	Monday to Saturday	Clacton - Jaywick Journeys departing from Jaywick at: 2215 & 2315	Heddingham
5	Monday to Saturday	Basildon - Felmores Journeys departing from Basildon at: 2220, 2230, 2300 Journeys departing from Felmores at: 2214, 2244	First
6	Monday to Saturday	Harlow - Little Parndon Journey departing from Harlow Bus Station at: 2220	Arriva
6A/6B	Monday to Saturday	Clacton - Bockings Elm - Point Clear Journeys departing from Point Clear at: 2217 & 2317 Journey parting from Clacton at: 2250	Heddingham
7	Monday to Saturday	North Shoebury - Southend - Hockley - Rayleigh Journeys departing from Southend at: 2200 & 2300 Journeys departing from Rayleigh at: 2215 & 2245	Arriva
7	Monday to Saturday	Frinton - Clacton Journey departing from Frinton at: 2219	First
8	Monday to Saturday	Old Harlow - Mark Hall - Harlow Journeys departing from Old Harlow at: 2200 & 2230 Journey departing from Harow Bus Station at: 2218	Arriva
8/8A	Monday to Saturday	Laindon - Pitsea Journeys departing from Laindon at: 2214, 2242 & 2314 Journeys departing from Pitsea Brodway at: 2214 & 2245	First
10	Monday to Saturday	Church Langley - Central Harlow Journey departing from Harlow Rail Station at: 2210 Journey departing from Church Langley at: 2222	Arriva
21B	Monday to Saturday	Canvey - Southend Journey departing from Southend at: 2214 Journeys departing from Canvey at: 2216 & 2316	First
31	Monday to Saturday	Chelmsford - Maldon - Burnham Journeys departing from Chelmsford Bus Station at: 2215 & 2310	First
36	Monday to Saturday	Chelmsford - South Woodham Ferrers Journey departing from Chelmsford Bus Station at: 2240 Journey departing from South Woodham at: 2221	First
42	Monday to Saturday	Galleywood - Chelmsford - Great Waltham Journeys departing from Galleywood at: 2200, 2230 & 2330 Journey departing from Great Waltham at: 2249	First
45	Monday to Saturday	Moulsham Lodge - Chelmsford - Oxney Green Journeys departing from Oxney Green at: 2200 & 2307 Journey departing from Moulsham Lodge at: 2230	First
57A/57C	Monday to Saturday	Chelmsford - Galleywood Journeys departing from Chelmsford Bus Station at: 2216 & 2246 Journeys departing from Galleywood at: 2221, 2245 & 2313	First
64/64A	Monday to Saturday	Greenstead - St Michaels Estate/Shrub End/Layer-de-la-Haye Journeys departing from Greenstead at: 2200, 2230 & 2300 Journey departing from St.Michaels at: 2230 Journey departing from Shrub End at: 2200 Journey departing from Layer at: 2310	First
66	Monday to Saturday	Colchester North Station - Rowhedge Journey departing Colchester North Station at: 2240 Journeys departing from Rowhedge at: 2208 & 2308	First

Service	Days of operation	Route	Operator
66B	Monday to Saturday	West Bergholt - Colchester - Old Heath Journey departing from West Bergholt at: 2259 Journey departing from Old Heath at: 2233	First
68	Monday to Saturday	Highwoods - West Mersea Journey departing from Highwoods at: 2250 Journey departing from West Mersea at: 2255	First
71A	Monday to Saturday	Chelmsford - Witham - Kelvedon - Colchester Journey departing from Chelmsford Bus Station at: 2230 Journey departing from Kelvedon at: 2237 Journeys departing from Colchester at: 2205 & 2315	First
74B	Monday to Saturday	Clacton - Alresford - Colchester Journey from Colchester at: 2210	First
88/88A	Monday to Friday	Colchester - Earls Colne - Halstead Journey from Colchester at: 2240 Journey from Halstead at: 2330	First
100	Monday to Saturday	Clacton - Walton Journey from Clacton at: 2245	First
102	Monday to Saturday	Colchester - Harwich Journey departing from Colchester at: 2335 Journey departing from Harwich at: 2215	First
352	Monday to Saturday	Chelmsford - Halstead Journey departing from Chelmsford at: 2245	Hedingham
418B	Monday to Saturday	Loughton - Harlow Journey departing from Loughton at: 2245 Journey departing from Harlow at: 2220	TrustyBus
Additional services being considered for withdrawal due to exceeding CPPJ			
Service	Days of operation	Route	Operator
21	Monday to Saturday	Bocking - Black Notley Journeys departing from Bocking at: 1930 & 2030 Journeys departing from Black Notley at: 1900 & 2000	Stephensons
418B	Monday to Saturday	Loughton - Harlow Journeys departing from Loughton at: 1945, 2045, 2145 & 2245 Journeys departing from Harlow at: 2020, 2120 & 2220	TrustyBus

Appendix B - Consultation on Sunday Services

Service	Days of operation	Route	Operator
1	Sunday & Public Holidays	Southend - Hadleigh - South Benfleet - Rayleigh (Hadleigh to Rayleigh section under consultation only)	Arriva
1	Sunday & Public Holidays	Sumners - Passmores - Central Harlow	Arriva
1A	Sunday & Public Holidays	Ambrose Avenue - Greenstead	First
2	Sunday & Public Holidays	Harlow - Passmores - Staple Tye	Arriva
2A	Sunday & Public Holidays	Highwoods - Great Horkeley	First
4	Sunday & Public Holidays	Latton Bush - Bush Fair - Tye Green - Central Harlow	Arriva
4A	Sunday & Public Holidays	Southend - Shoeburyness	Arriva
5	Sunday & Public Holidays	Basildon - Felmores	First
6	Sunday & Public Holidays	Harlow - Lt Parndon	Arriva
7/8	Sunday & Public Holidays	North Shoebury - Southend - Rayleigh (Rayleigh to Rochford section under consultation only)	Arriva
8	Sunday & Public Holidays	Old Harlow - Mark Hall - Harlow	Arriva
8/8A	Sunday & Public Holidays	Laindon - Pitsea	First
10	Sunday & Public Holidays	Church Langley - Central Harlow	Arriva
21	Sunday & Public Holidays	Black Notley - Braintree - Bocking	NIBS
25	Sunday & Public Holidays	Basildon - Wickford	First
33	Sunday & Public Holidays	Broomfield - Chelmsford - Southminster	First
36	Sunday & Public Holidays	Broomfield - Chelmsford - South Woodham Ferrers	First
37	Sunday & Public Holidays	Brentwood - Pilgrims Hatch	First
42A	Sunday & Public Holidays	Chelmsford - Stansted	First
45A	Sunday & Public Holidays	Oxney Green - Chelmer Village	First
48A	Sunday & Public Holidays	Chelmsford - Boreham	First
54/56	Sunday & Public Holidays	North Melbourne - Beaulieu Park	First
57B/57C	Sunday & Public Holidays	Chelmsford - Galleywood	First
59	Sunday & Public Holidays	Chelmsford - Harlow	First
66	Sunday & Public Holidays	Colchester - West Bergholt	First
66	Sunday & Public Holidays	Colchester North Station - Rowhedge	First
66A	Sunday & Public Holidays	Waltham Cross - Waltham Abbey - Loughton - Debden	Swallow
67B	Sunday & Public Holidays	West Mersea - Peddion - Monkwick - Colchester	First
70	Sunday & Public Holidays	Colchester - Chelmsford	First
71C	Sunday & Public Holidays	Chelmsford - Witham - Kelvedon - Colchester	First
75	Sunday & Public Holidays	Maldon - Colchester	First
76	Sunday & Public Holidays	Clacton - Colchester	First
80A/80C	Sunday & Public Holidays	Brentwood - Shenfield - Hutton	First
94C	Sunday & Public Holidays	South Woodham - Marsh Farm	First
88A	Sunday & Public Holidays	Halstead - Eight Ash Green - Colchester	First
100	Sunday & Public Holidays	Clacton - Thorpe-le-Soken	First
102	Sunday & Public Holidays	Colchester - Harwich	First
106	Sunday & Public Holidays	Colchester - Harwich	First
132	Sunday & Public Holidays	Saffron Walden - Cambridge	C G Myall & Son
251	Sunday & Public Holidays	Warley - Wickford	First
351	Sunday & Public Holidays	Chelmsford - Brentwood	First
352	Sunday & Public Holidays	Broomfield - Halstead	First
418B	Sunday & Public Holidays	Loughton - Harlow	Arriva
420	Sunday & Public Holidays	Ongar - Harlow (Ongar to North Weald section under consultation only)	Trustybus