



PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE

INDIVIDUAL DECISION BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENVIRONMENT

TOPIC – HCC'S PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND PASSENGER TRANSPORT CONSULTATION

PROCEDURAL INFORMATION

The Access to Information Procedure Rules – Part 4, Section 22 of the Council's Constitution provides for a decision to be made by an individual member of Cabinet.

In accordance with the Procedure Rules, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, the Chief Executive and the Head of Finance are consulted together with Chairman and Vice Chairman of The Overview and Scrutiny Committee and any other relevant overview and scrutiny committee. In addition, all Members are notified.

If five or more Members from those informed so request, the Leader may require the matter to be referred to Cabinet for determination.

Contact Officers:

Case Officer: Sara Davies, 01962 848241, sdavies@winchester.gov.uk

Democratic Services Officer: Matthew Watson,
<mailto:mwatson@winchester.gov.uk>

SUMMARY

- The County Council is seeking to make savings through changes to the financial support it provides for public transport services. Feedback from passengers will be carefully looked at, alongside data on passenger journeys and the cost of providing individual journeys or services. The core funding for the operation of community transport schemes, such as Dial-a-Ride, Call and Go and Minibus Group Hire Schemes, are not included in these proposals. This consultation does include questions on proposals to change the discretionary discount for holders of older persons' bus passes on some community transport services. The County Council is also asking for views on proposals to switch off some street lights for two or more hours during the night. This would mean that some areas of the county would have no street lighting for a period of the night time.

The County Council's six proposals are:

1. To switch off street lights for part of the night (2 hours or more) on residential streets.
 2. To make operational changes to the current public bus and ferry services service's which HCC supports.
 3. To replace some supported bus services with alternative forms of community transport, such as Taxishares and Call and Go.
 4. To reduce the amount of printed material and make better use of electronic information.
 5. To reduce the amount of support available to organisations that provide, promote or support transport services.
 6. To remove the use of the Older Person's Bus Pass on Taxishares, Dial-a-Ride and Call and Go services.
- The complete information pack and questionnaire can be found on the below website:<https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/publictransportandstreetlighting>
 - The consultation closes at midnight on Sunday 5th August 2018.
 - The City Council can not respond to the questionnaire as it asks specific questions to those people who use the services. However, we can be guided by our resident's response on these matters and a response is set out in Appendix 1.

DECISION

- That the response by Winchester City Council in Appendix 1 be agreed and the reply be sent to Hampshire County Council.

REASON FOR THE DECISION AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

N/A

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

None.

DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

None

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN ON THE DECISION

Consultation with Portfolio Holder.

**FURTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED
FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF THE DRAFT PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION
NOTICE**

[CLICK AND ENTER TEXT]

Note for Author: please include detail of any representations received (including those of consulted Members). This will include your response to any alternatives suggested by those making representation and the reasons why these alternatives were rejected. Include comments on risk management where relevant. These need to be taken into consideration when the Portfolio Holder makes the final decision in consultation with the Case Officer.

**DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY THE DECISION MAKER OR A MEMBER OR
OFFICER CONSULTED**

N/A

DISPENSATION GRANTED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

N/A

Approved by: (signature)

Date of Decision: 03/08/2018

Councillor Jan Warwick – Portfolio Holder for Environment

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1: Winchester City Council Response

Appendix 1:

Winchester City Council's response to Hampshire County Councils Public Transport and Street Lighting Consultation.

1. To switch off street lights for part of the night (2 hours or more) on residential streets.

The City Council would expect the County Council to be guided by residents' individual responses in regards to the streetlights being switched off in residential streets and would also ask that parish councils be consulted so that they can identify areas where lighting should not be dimmed. There are likely to be a range of opinions on this matter and views regarding the impact of this change may well be differ depending upon where people live in our District. People's perception of security and safety will affect their individual responses and views in rural areas may be different to those living in our market towns and Winchester itself. This is why it is important to liaise directly with parish councils too as they have local knowledge and are well placed to comment.

The consultation also mentions considering switching lights off in towns and cities along main roads. If this suggestion was taken forward, Winchester City Council would need to carefully test and trial whether this would affect the CCTV cameras located around the District and therefore the City Council could not support this proposal until it was confident there would be no adverse impact on security. The City Council would need to consult with Winchester BID and Shopwatch before responding fully to this proposal and would therefore request direct discussions with the County Council if this recommendation is to be taken forward. The County Council should also seek the police's view on the implications of this proposal.

2. To make operational changes to the current public bus and ferry services service's which HCC supports.

Five bus services in Winchester are financially supported by HCC. The City Council is concerned about any proposal which would reduce public transport provision and would therefore would like these services to be supported in future whilst understanding that savings need to be made. It is noted that HCC have stated that no community which has an existing transport link will be let without an alternative.

The County Council should also take into account, where the nearest alternative bus stop is located as some residents may be risk of further isolation. For example, passengers living at the most southern end of Oliver's Battery who find it difficult to walk to Badger Farm Road.

In terms of charging 50p for every journey that is made with a concessionary travel pass the City Council would expect the County Council to take the views of our local bus users into account before implementing any charges. The City Council would not support the introduction of charges that would lead to a reduction in the use of public transport or financial hardship by users especially by those that have no viable alternative and are dependent on bus transport for many of their journeys.

The County Council should be looking towards streamlining fares on buses using contactless payments on smart cards. Buses are delayed when a large number of passengers fares are calculated before paper tickets are issued. A 50p charge would be a retrograde step for drivers and passengers to handling more small amounts of change for each journey made.

The City Council also suggests that the County Council and bus operators look at innovative ways of making those services that are currently underused, but essential for connecting rural areas, more attractive. This might include review of the timetables or fare discounts.

3. To replace some supported bus services with alternative forms of community transport, such as Taxishares and Call and Go.

If a Taxishare or Call and Go is the only alternative way to keep providing a community with a transport link, the City Council would support this proposal. However the City Council would prefer to see bus services maintained.

4. To reduce the amount of printed material and make better use of electronic information.

The City Council are in support of making all transport guides available on line. Hampshire County Council is encouraged to work local transport operators to increase the availability of their own timetabling information bearing in mind that some members of the older population may not be able to access the material online. HCC should consider making all this information available to view in paper copy at certain key sites, such as HCC and the Discovery Centre as well as transport hubs. This should cut down on printed material needed whilst allowing those passengers without on-line access to have a specific timetables in paper copy.

5. To reduce the amount of support available to organisations that provide, promote or support transport services.

The City Council would not support a proposal by Hampshire County Council which resulted in the stopping of all grants to community transport projects. These projects perform a valuable function around the County and fill in gaps where public transport does not exist. It would be better to reduce or cap the grant amount so some funding would still be available for the most essential services.

The City Council remains committed to supporting financially community transport services in the District including dial-a-ride.

In relation to the advice and training that some of these projects receive, it would be up to the transport groups to individually respond to this consultation as it will affect them in different ways and the City Council would hope that this information would still be available through other channels if HCC decide to reduce their level of direct support.

6. To remove the use of the Older Person's Bus Pass on Taxishares, Dial-a-Ride and Call and Go services.

The City Council would expect HCC to take into account resident's responses in relation to this proposal. The City Council understands that these services are already subsidised by Hampshire County Council but would be concerned if removing the use of bus passes on these services would reduce people's ability to use this important mode of transport.