

WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM

25 JUNE 2014

WINCHESTER TOWN EVENING BUS SERVICE - UPDATE

REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (BUILT ENVIRONMENT)

Contact Officer: Simon Finch Tel No: 01962 848271

RECENT REFERENCES:

WTF179 - Winchester Night Bus – 12 September 2012

WTF194 – Winchester Evening Bus Service – 11 September 2013.

WTF 201 – Winchester Town Evening Bus Service – 12 March 2014

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

At the meeting held on 12 March 2014 the Town Forum resolved to support, in principle, the continuation of the evening bus service beyond September this year and agreed that Hampshire County Council be authorised to tender the service for a period of 2 years based upon the service provided for by the current contract, subject to any minor adjustments to the timetable agreed by the Assistant Director Built Environment in consultation with the Chairman of the Town Forum.

Hampshire County Council duly tendered the service (with minor adjustments to the timetable) and two operators submitted bids which are detailed below. The Town Forum now needs to decide whether to accept one of the bids and to therefore commit to funding the service for a further period of two years commencing in September 2014 when the current contract ends.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Forum notes the bids received and decides whether to commit to fund the continuation of the night bus service for a further period of 2 years commencing September 2014.

## WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM

25 June 2014

### WINCHESTER TOWN EVENING BUS SERVICE

#### REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (BUILT ENVIRONMENT)

##### DETAIL:

##### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Town Forum decided in 2012 to support an evening bus service between the city centre and Badger Farm, Stanmore, Weeke and Harestock on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays and made provision for this in its budgets for 12/13 and 13/14. The current timetable is set out in Appendix 1. It has earmarked £13k in its 14/15 budget for this purpose. However the current contract expires in September this year so the Forum needs to decide whether it wants to continue supporting the night bus after this date.
- 1.2 In March this year the Forum resolved to support, in principle, the continuation of the service for a further 2 year period (beyond September 2014) and asked Hampshire County Council (HCC) to tender the service on this basis.
- 1.3 The timetable was also reviewed and the Assistant Director Built Environment, in consultation with the Chairman, made some minor adjustments intended to better coordinate the bus and train times. This entails moving back the departure times for both services by 5 minutes to allow more time for train passengers to reach the bus stop. The revised timetable is attached at Appendix 2.
- 1.4 HCC tendered the service following the last Forum meeting in March and two operators submitted bids. These were evaluated by County on an 80% price 20% quality basis. Stagecoach (existing operator) was first (cost £13,408 per annum) with another operator second (cost £18,500 per annum). The cost of Stagecoach continuing to run the service is in line with the £13,390 budget set for 2014/15 and is only slightly more than the existing annual cost of the service. The current contract price is £13,163
- 1.5 If the Forum therefore resolves to run the service for a further two years, taking into account the results of the tender process including costs, it is recommended that Stagecoach be awarded the contract because they were placed first using HCC's method of evaluation. Furthermore they have operated the existing service effectively since September 2012.

## OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

### 2 COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND PORTFOLIO PLANS (RELEVANCE TO):

- 2.1 The service will contribute towards Community and Economic objectives by providing a service which local people can use to access restaurants and Public Houses thus benefitting the evening economy and improving accessibility.

### 3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 3.1 A £13,390 budget has been approved for the night bus service in the Winchester Town Account budget for 14/15 and the cost of Stagecoach running the service (£13,408) is in line with this. The contract runs for two years from September 2014 and will be subject to inflationary uplifts which are already included in the Town Account budget projections for 15/16 and 16/17.

### 4 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 Discontinuing the service could impact upon the city's night time economy and users of the service, albeit the impact is likely to be low given the limited use of the service in year 1.
- 4.2 Hampshire County Council is aiming to save £1.25 to £1.5 million from public and community transport spending by 2015/16 and has recently undertaken a consultation to seek the views and preferences of district councils, other organisations and individual users to aid them in their decision-making process. The cost of operating the night bus could be affected if the review results in reductions to other existing evening services in Winchester. Depending upon the extent of any financial impact the operator could decide to terminate the contract with 2 months notice. At this point the Forum would have to reconsider the matter to decide if it was willing to increase funding for the continuation of the night bus service. It is not possible to predict the likelihood of this happening at this point and the outcome of the review is not expected before the end of October 2014.

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

None

## APPENDICES:

- 1 Existing Service Timetable
- 2 Revised Service Timetable

**APPENDIX 1 – EXISTING TIMETABLE**

Winchester, Bus Station	2210	2310	0010
City Road	2213	2313	0013
Dean Lane Corner	2217	2317	0017
Harestock, March Hare	2222	2322	0022
Dean Lane Corner	2226	2326	0026
City Road	2230	2330	0030
Winchester, Bus Station	2233	2333	0033

**5A****Winchester - Badger Farm - Stanmore - Winchester****Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays**

<i>Train arrival from London</i>	2133	2233	2333
Winchester, Bus Station	2135	2235	2335
City Road	2138	2238	2338
County Hospital	2142	2242	2342
Battery Hill	2144	2244	2344
Badger Farm, Sainsbury's	2149	2249	2349
Stanmore Lane (Keble Street)	2154	2254	2354
Cromwell Road, Post Office	2157	2257	2357
Winchester, Bus Station	2203	2303	0003

## **APPENDIX 2 – PROPOSED TIMETABLE**

### **Service 3: City Centre – Harestock**

**Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings only  
Except bank and public holidays**

Winchester, Bus Station	2215	2315	0015
City Road	2218	2318	0018
Dean Lane Corner	2022	2322	0022
Harestock, March Hare	2227	2327	0027
Harestock, March Hare	2227	2327	0027
Dean Lane Corner	2231	2331	0031
City Road	2235	2335	0035
Winchester, Bus Station	2238	2338	0038

### **Service 5A: City Centre – Badger Farm**

**Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings only  
Except bank and public holidays**

Winchester, Bus Station	2140	2240	2340
City Road	2143	2243	2343
Royal Hampshire County Hospital	2147	2247	2347
Badger Farm, Elder Close	2152	2252	2352
Badger Farm, Sainsburys	2154	2254	2354
Badger Farm, Elder Close	2152	2252	2352
Badger Farm, Sainsburys	2154	2254	2354
<i>Via Stanmore Lane, Cromwell Road and Southgate Street</i>			
Winchester, Bus Station	2208	2308	0008