

REPORT TITLE: WINCHESTER NIGHT BUS SERVICE UPDATE

12 JUNE 2019

REPORT OF CORPORATE HEAD OF REGULATORY

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WARD(S): TOWN WARDS

PURPOSE

In March 2019 (WTF 268 refers) the Town Forum resolved to extend the funding of the Winchester night bus in principle and request Hampshire County Council to proceed to tender for a new contract to provide a nightbus service for a period of 2 years (with a 1 year extension option) such service to run from September 2019.

Due to the tight procedural timescales for tendering a contract, Hampshire County Council has not been able to obtain precise tender prices at the time of this report preparation. However, the actual figure will be reported at the meeting which follows the tendering of the contract by the Hampshire County Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the Town Forum confirms that they wish to continue the nightbus service from September 2019 for a further period of 2 years with an option of a 1 year extension at a price per annum to be reported at the meeting that follows the tendering of the contract by Hampshire County Council.

## IMPLICATIONS:

### 1 COUNCIL STRATEGY OUTCOME

- 1.1 Supporting public transport services is consistent with improving the quality of the district's environment and, in particular, reducing harmful emissions through holistic transport planning.

### 2 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 The Town Forum has made provision in the Town Account for the continued funding of the nightbus as a recurring item with a budget of £13.5k for 2019/20.
- 2.2 The Parish of Littleton and Harestock have agreed a contribution of £500 to support the service.
- 2.3 The final contract figure will be available for agreement at the meeting. Previous changes to the Stagecoach's commercial contracting arrangements in September 2018 reduced the Forum's previous obligation to £7,800 per annum. Even allowing for an over-inflationary up-lift for a new tender the likely costs should be well within the Forum's budget provision for 2019/20.

### 3 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Local Government Act 1999 requires the Council to make arrangements to achieve best value in the exercise of its functions which includes the proposed procurement. While conducting the procurement and evaluating the bids, officers must satisfy themselves that the procurement process is in accordance with this principle.
- 3.2 The original contract on which the extension is being sought has been tendered by Hampshire County Council using their established passenger transport contracting framework of pre-approved contractors.
- 3.3 Officers request approval to initiate the tender process for a further contract to continue services through the same mechanism and will report tender prices back to this committee. Any such contract is to be held by the County Council and funded by the Town Forum.
- 3.4 The procurement process set out in this report is compliant with the Council's procedures, although officers are requested to involve legal and the procurement team where relevant.

### 4 WORKFORCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None

### 5 PROPERTY AND ASSET IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None

## 6 CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

- 6.1 Littleton and Harestock parish council have been consulted and they have agreed to make a financial contribution to the costs of running the night bus service as they have done in the past.

## 7 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 As referred to at 1.1 above supporting public transport is in line with the aims of the Council Strategy and operating a nightbus service will align with this. Providing this service is likely to discourage the use of private modes of transport for journeys between the city centre and the outlying neighbourhoods of Winchester served by the nightbus.

## 8 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSEMENT

- 8.1 None

## 9 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 None

## 10 RISK MANAGEMENT

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>	<b>Opportunities</b>
<i>Property - None</i>		
<i>Community Support Parish councils are supportive of the service so withdrawing its funding could undermine confidence in the Town Forum's commitment to sustainable transport.</i>	Continue to fund the service for a further period of 2 years	Continue to seek financial support from parish councils.
<i>Timescales - None</i>		
<i>Project capacity</i>		
<i>Financial / VfM - None – see section 2 above</i>		
<i>Legal - None</i>		
<i>Innovation - None</i>		
<i>Reputation See Community support section above. Furthermore withdrawing the service which has run since 2012 could attract criticism from regular users.</i>	Continue to fund the service for a further period of 2 years	Continued funding for the nightbus would show the Council's commitment to delivering services which benefit the town's residents and businesses.
<i>Other Ending the nightbus service could adversely</i>	Continue to fund the service for a further period of 2 years	

<i>impact on the city's nighttime economy.</i>		
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## 11 SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

- 11.1 The previous report agreed by the Town Forum in March 2019 (WTF 268 refers) and covers all of the salient details regarding the establishment and use of the service and at this meeting when it was resolved to continue to fund the service in principle. However, before a final decision is made, the Forum needs to see and agree the costs. This report is to present the tendered prices for continuing the nightbus to the Town Forum and seeks formal approval for the award of a new 2 year contract with an option of a 1 year extension.

## 12 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 12.1 No other options have been considered in relation to the merits of continuing the service because this was considered and agreed at the last meeting of the Forum in March 2019. This report deals with the tendered costs of this and therefore the Forum will need to consider these against the budget provision for 2019/20 before confirming that a new contract should be agreed.

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:-

### Previous Committee Reports:-

WTF261 – Winchester Night Bus Service Update – 21 March 2019

WTF261 – Winchester Night Bus Service Update – 28 March 2018

WTF241 – Winchester Evening Bus Service Up-date - 27 June 2016

WTF238 – Winchester Evening Bus Services Up-date 9 March 2016.

WTF216– Winchester Evening Bus Services Update – 11 March 2015

WTF203 - Winchester Town Evening Bus Service Update - 25 June 2014

Other Background Documents: - None

APPENDICES: None