
BUS SERVICE 4A – GREAT WAKERING AND FOULNESS ISLAND

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 Members to consider the impact of the withdrawal of bus service 4A which serves Great Wakering and Foulness Island.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 In October the Council received a letter from Essex County Council (ECC) Highways and Transportation Section advising that certain bus services operating in the county and receiving ECC financial support were due for review in August 2006. Contained on that schedule was route 4A which serves Great Wakering and Foulness Island (restricted service).
- 2.2 The letter explained that there were very low levels of patronage and that the routes were considered uneconomic even with County Council support. The likelihood was that unless the performance of the services improved they may have to be withdrawn.

3 ROUTE 4A

- 3.1 Route 4A receives de minimus payments from County Council which helps to fund extra journeys. Other journeys are undertaken on a commercial operation basis. The route is operated by Arriva Southend.
- 3.2 Advice has been received from the bus company that the service operating within the District terminated on 1 November 2005 due to it being an uneconomic route.
- 3.3 Passenger numbers supplied by ECC indicate that for the Great Wakering leg there were 13,016 journeys last year. This is an average of 42 journeys per operational day spread over an average of 60 bus movements per day.
- 3.4 A restricted service operates to Foulness Island for MOD Permit Holders. Passenger numbers indicate that for this leg 2,160 journeys were made last year. This is an average of seven journeys per operational day spread over an average of eight bus movements per day.
- 3.5 Members will note that this level of patronage indicates below one passenger journey per bus movement with many buses having no pick-ups or set-downs at these stops.
- 3.6 Members' views are sought on the withdrawal of the service, whether the Council could assist financially or point existing users to alternative means of transport.

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- 3.7 The Chief Executive has made an initial response to the County Council indicating that Rochford was unhappy about the withdrawal of route 4A and would support the County Council stepping in to provide more financial support for an important public transport service to some of the more inaccessible parts of our District. He added that this Council has no budgetary provision to support the service, nor is it likely to have in the foreseeable future.
- 3.8 The Head of Service reminds Members that Wyvern Community Transport run a community bus for the benefit of those having problems using or accessing conventional forms of public transport. If Members endorsed the recommendation below, additional publicity could be provided in the Great Wakering and Foulness island areas to draw attention to this facility.

4 RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**
- (1) That the Council help promote the use of the Wyvern Community Transport bus to those residents of Great Wakering and Foulness Island who would have otherwise used the withdrawn service.
 - (2) That ECC be encouraged to continue to fund the service.

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Background Papers:-

None

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