

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD

29 November 2010

Report of the Director of Kent Highway Services

Part 1- Public

Matters For Information

1 ARRIVA 101 SERVICE WITHDRAWAL

Summary

Update on investigations aimed at supporting the reinstatement of the 101 Service at Cobtree Golf Course and opposite Salisbury Road, Kits Coty.

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 On Monday 28 June Arriva withdrew their 101 bus service from serving two bus stops on the A229 at Cobtree Golf Course (A229 northbound) and opposite Salisbury Road, Kits Coty, (A229 southbound). Both withdrawals were on health and safety grounds. Arriva's action was prompted by a number of incident reports from their drivers which highlighted concerns over the location and layout of the stops.
- 1.1.2 This matter was reported to both the Tonbridge & Malling and Maidstone Joint Transportation Boards. Previous reports identified the likely high cost of the engineering works to address Arriva's concerns at the bus stops in question and the fact that the KCC supported Service 150 could accommodate almost all of the limited number of passengers affected. Some 21 passengers per day were recorded alighting at the Cobtree Goff course stop.

1.2 Petitions for the reinstatement of the 101 Service

- 1.2.1 Petitions have been presented at both Tonbridge & Malling & Maidstone JTB's calling for the reinstatement of the 101 Service to the Cobtree Golf Course Bus Stop and opposite Salisbury Road, Kits Coty. Subsequently, Kent Highway Services have been investigating solutions for both stops to overcome Arriva's safety concerns.

1.3 Cobtree Golf Course Bus Stop

- 1.3.1 At the October meeting of the Maidstone Joint Transportation Board three options were considered for the Cobtree Golf Course Bus Stop together with their benefits and disadvantages. At £44,000 the least costly option is to build a new bus stop/ lane across the mouth of the Cobtree Golf Course junction parallel with the A229

carriageway. This option would also cause least disruption to traffic on the A229 during construction. An outline design has been produced [**Annex 1**] and Arriva have agreed, in principle, that the 101 service would resume serving the area once the scheme is completed. However, concerns remain over the safety of passengers walking the additional distance along the Golf Club access road which has neither a footway nor street lighting, over the loss of the junction direction sign reducing the conspicuousness of the junction and over stationary buses obscuring the visibility of traffic leaving the junction. Larger scale drawings of the Annexes will be on display at the meeting.

- 1.3.2 Members of the Maidstone Joint Transportation Board supported this option and County Councillor Paul Carter indicated that he would be willing to fund this via his Member Highway Fund however, he requested that further quotes for the work be obtained.

1.4 Bus Stop Opposite Salisbury Road, Kits Coty

- 1.4.1 Investigations have looked at what measures would be acceptable for the bus stop opposite Salisbury Road, Kits Coty and unlike the Cobtree Golf Course stop options are very limited and it is felt that only a full length lay-by which conforms to TD 41/95 is considered both viable and would be acceptable to Arriva. A reduction in speed limit on its own would not allay the safety concerns at this stop.

- 1.4.2 An outline scheme has been designed [**Annex 2**] which has been estimated at £218,300. The reasons why this scheme is so expensive are that extensive earthworks need to be carried out, major traffic management would be required, additional expertise and works including ecological, tree & shrubbery will be needed. It may also be necessary to make amendments to British Telecom services in the area.

- 1.4.3 Funding for a scheme of this nature would normally be bid for as part of the Local Transport Plans Integrated Transport Programme. However, until the full implications of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review are understood and the County's budgets have been set for the forthcoming financial year it is not known at this time whether funding will be available for these types of schemes. Once known a further update will be provided to this board.

1.5 Legal Implications

- 1.5.1 None at this stage

1.6 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.6.1 As reported.

1.7 Risk Assessment

- 1.7.1 Not applicable.

1.8 Policy Considerations

1.8.1 Community

Background papers:

Nil

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