

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD

11 June 2012

Report of the Director of Kent Highways & Transportation

Part 1- Public

Matters For Information

1 155 BUS SERVICES FROM CHATHAM TO MAIDSTONE

Summary

This report provides an update on the current position relating to the 'late' running 155 services from Chatham to Maidstone.

- 1.1.1 In response to the petition received which has been considered by KCC. Whilst Kent County Council acknowledges the strength of feeling on the matter and that the withdrawal will have an impact on local residents, there is unfortunately no funding available to provide subsidy for an evening service on the 155.
- 1.1.2 When the government announced that cuts would be made to KCC funding, a review of all budgets was undertaken to identify where savings could be made. It was necessary to make savings from the supported bus budget and a process then ensued to prioritise which KCC supported services should be retained.
- 1.1.3 The purpose of the supported bus budget is to provide access to essential retail, healthcare, employment or education services and therefore daytime services were prioritised over evening services.
- 1.1.4 Due to low use of the evening service, the amount of subsidy required to operate this 155 service was high, at approximately £3.15 per passenger journey made. The 155 therefore was included in the list of proposed subsidy withdrawals.
- 1.1.5 When the list was known KCC commenced consultation, through the local KCC Councillor, writing to affected District and Parish Councils and through 'on bus' notices.
- 1.1.6 KCC did not receive any consultation response regarding the proposed withdrawal of subsidy from the 155 evening bus services and therefore subsidy was withdrawn on 1st January 2012.
- 1.1.7 The supported bus budget is fully allocated for 2012/13 and is likely to come under further pressures during the next year. Unfortunately therefore, I have no option but to confirm that KCC cannot provide subsidy for an evening 155 service.

1.2 Legal Implications

1.2.1 None.

1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.3.1 None.

1.4 Risk Assessment

1.4.1 None.

Background papers:

Nil

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