

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD

24 September 2012

Report of the Director of Kent Highways and Transportation

Part 1- Public

Matters For Information

1 155 EVENING BUS SERVICE

Summary

This report informs Members of the launch of a trial reinstatement of the 155 evening service.

- 1.1.1 The 155 evening service was withdrawn in January 2012 due to low passenger numbers and the high subsidy required to support the service, at approximately £3.15 for each passenger journey made.
- 1.1.2 Since the withdrawal there have been strong calls from local residents for the service to be reinstated. It has been agreed that a six month trial reinstatement of the service will commence on 1st October 2012, funded by Peter Homewood's Member Highway Fund (£5k), Aylesford, Burham and Wouldham Parish Councils (cumulative £5k) and the KCC supported bus budget (£5k).
- 1.1.3 The objective of the trial is to increase use of the service such that it becomes commercially viable by the end of the trial period and can therefore continue operation. This will require a significant increase in the number of passengers using the service. Arriva will shortly provide details of the number of passengers required to make the service viable and will provide monthly progress reports during the trial.
- 1.1.4 A meeting was recently held with KCC, TMBC and Parish Councillors and KCC officers to discuss the operation and publicity of the trial service. It has been agreed that the trial will commence on Monday 1st October and operate to a new timetable designed by the petition group which improves connections with evening rail services. The service will be publicised through a new timetable leaflet that will be distributed to over 2100 houses, a local parish church magazine, press releases and a launch event at the end of September.

1.2 Legal Implications

- 1.2.1 None.

1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.3.1 As covered in the report.

1.4 Risk Assessment

1.4.1 Not required.

Background papers:

Nil

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