

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER – JOBS, ECONOMY AND  
TRANSPORT**

**29 May 2014**

Report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

**PETITION CONCERNING THE BUS SERVICES IN CLOWNE  
VILLAGE**

(1) **Purpose of the Report** To report on the County Council's response to a petition received concerning the level of bus service, timetabling of those services in Clowne village and a request for a public meeting to resolve these concerns.

(2) **Information and Analysis**

**Background**

At the meeting on 18 June 2013, a petition was received by the Cabinet Member, signed by 64 residents of Clowne, who have a number of concerns about the bus services in the village (Minute No. 1/13 refers). These include timetables, changes in service frequencies and provision for Gold Card users. The petitioners requested the Council convene a public meeting with the bus company involved to resolve these matters. They also requested a bus passenger's Forum is established for the area.

**Current Situation**

Clowne is served by four local bus services:

- Service 77 Chesterfield to Worksop, operated commercially by Stagecoach in Chesterfield, half hourly Monday to Saturday daytime and hourly evenings and Sundays.
- Service 53 Mansfield to Sheffield, operated commercially by Stagecoach in Mansfield every two hours Monday to Saturday daytime with evening and Sunday two hourly journeys operated under contract to the Council.
- Service 73/74 Clowne to Crystal Peaks, seven journeys in each direction operated under contract to the Council by G & J Holmes.
- Service 49 Clay Cross to Clowne, three journeys in each direction operated under contract to the Council by G & J Holmes.

## **Public**

The petitioners request that the Council convene a meeting with Stagecoach. It has therefore been assumed their concerns relate to the commercial 77 and 53 services operated by Stagecoach and not the 73/74 and 49 services operated by G & J Holmes.

### **Service 77 and use of Gold Card**

One of the morning Service 77 journeys departs Clowne Tesco at 0925 travelling towards Staveley and Chesterfield. Gold Card users are unable to travel free of charge on this journey as the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS) operates after 0930 Monday to Friday. Gold Card holders wishing to travel on the 0925 would therefore need to pay the full adult fare (£1.50) to travel to Barlborough after which the ENCTS concession is available and Gold Card holders can travel free of charge using their card for the remainder of their journey.

The parameters of the concessionary fares scheme are set by the Department for Transport, and as such, cannot be changed. Whilst the Authority is able to offer additional concessions outside of the statutory scheme, this would involve additional cost and there are no funds available for this. As a commercial service, which the Council has no involvement in, it would be for Stagecoach in Chesterfield to respond to any concerns about the timetable and to advise on the scope to make adjustments so that the 0925 departure operates after the 0930 ENCTS concession commences.

### **Service 53**

Until 31 October 2011, Service 53 had an hourly frequency, giving 14 journeys a day in each direction. After this time, Stagecoach East Midlands reduced the service to two hourly, giving 6 journeys a day in each direction. As a commercial service, it is for Stagecoach East Midlands to respond to any comments regarding the current timetable and frequency of service.

### **Conclusions**

In order to fully establish what the petitioners' complaints are, a meeting is being convened. Whilst the complaints relate to commercial bus services which the Council has no involvement in, the Authority is able to co-ordinate a meeting with the two Stagecoach companies and the lead petitioner's group. The two Stagecoach companies involved have agreed to a meeting which will be held shortly. This could also discuss options for a bus passenger's forum.

### **Local Member Comment**

Councillor Anne Western supports the petitioners in their request to meet with Stagecoach with a view to improving bus services in the Clowne area. Councillor Western would like to see the introduction of a service from Clowne through Stanfree to Chesterfield Royal Hospital and Chesterfield, increased frequency of Service 53 and the re-timing of Service 77 to enable use of the Gold Card.

## Public

(3) **Financial Considerations** There are no financial considerations associated with this report.

(4) **Transport Considerations** As set out in the report. It is considered that the actions outlined above should not have any detrimental impact on equalities, race discrimination and crime and disorder. The actions also seek to provide journey opportunities to locations for all members of the community.

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, environmental, health and property considerations.

(5) **Key Decision** No.

(6) **Call-In** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(7) **Background Papers** Correspondence held in the Transport and Technical Policy Division. Officer contact details - Janet Pickersgill, extension 36734.

(8) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS** That:

8.1 The planned meeting with Stagecoach East Midlands, Stagecoach Chesterfield and the lead petitioner's group be noted

8.2 The local Member and lead petitioner be advised accordingly.

**Mike Ashworth**  
**Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment**