

## **Budget Proposals 2013/14: Major Decision: Business Unit: Residents & Visitors Services (RVS) Subsidised Bus Routes**

### **Combined Impact Assessment: Full assessment (Part 2)**

The council and its partners are facing a significant challenge in the savings it needs to make over the next couple of years. This Full Impact Assessment has been developed as a tool to enable business units to fully consider the impact of proposed major decisions on the community. As a council we need to ensure that we are able to deliver the savings that we need to make from the 1<sup>st</sup> April and be able to justify our decisions through any legal challenge.

This full assessment, combined with the initial review, will evidence that you have fully considered the impact of your proposed changes and carried out appropriate consultation on those changes with the key stakeholders. The Combined Impact Assessment will allow Councillors to make informed decisions as part of the decision-making process regarding the council's budget.

**Name:** Sue Cheriton

**Position:** Executive Head – Residents & Visitor Services

**Business Unit:** Residents & Visitor Services

**Department:** Streetscene

**Date Commenced:** November 2012

**Date:** January 2013

## Summary from Overall Proposal

Proposals – Outline	Savings 2013/14		Implementation Cost Include brief outline + year incurred	Delivery In place 01/04/13 If earlier or later state date	Risks / impact of proposals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential risks</li> <li>• Impact on community</li> <li>• Knock on impact to other agencies</li> </ul>	Type of decision*		
	Income £ 000's	Budget reduction £ 000's				Internal	Minor	Major
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce subsidised bus routes.</li> </ul>		35		1/4/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential for loss of services.</li> </ul>			X

## Section 1: Purpose of the proposal/strategy/decision

No	Question	Details
1.	<b>Clearly set out the purpose of the proposal</b>	<p>The Council currently fund a number of bus services that cannot run on a commercial basis or fund parts of the service (ie in the evenings) if this element of the service is non profit making. Often a subsidised service can become commercial as the route becomes established meaning the subsidy can be withdrawn and re-invested in other areas which does not have a service. This reduction in funding will mean that one part of a service, the route 66 non term time service, will be withdrawn.</p> <p>Service 66 operates from Brixham Bolton Cross to Newton Abbot via Torbay Hospital, Foxhole and South Devon College. This is the only bus route operating along the Western Corridor between Brixham and Paignton however it is believed that Subsidised Bus Route 67 Brixham – Torbay Hospital via Paignton, may be able to accommodate some customers who are currently using Route 66.</p>
2.	<b>Who is intended to benefit / who will be affected?</b>	<p>The people most affected will be the passengers who use the Route 66 during non term times.</p> <p>We don't currently have a profile of the users of the service however we intend to put notices within the buses during the next School Holidays (18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2013) highlighting the fact that the service will be withdrawn during future School Holidays. We will also ask Stagecoach to give customers a questionnaire to fill in and send or e-mail back to the</p>

No	Question	Details
		Council during this time. We anticipate that this will identify those who will be affected with the withdrawal of the service.
3.	<b>What is the intended outcome?</b>	The service will no longer operate during non term times.

## Section 2: Equalities, Consultation and Engagement

Torbay Council has a moral obligation as well as a duty under the Equality Act 2010 to eliminate discrimination, promote good relations and advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not.

The **Equalities, Consultation and Engagement** section ensures that, as a council, we take into account the Public Sector Equality Duty at an early stage and provide evidence to ensure that we fully consider the impact of our decisions/proposals on the Torbay community.

### Evidence, Consultation and Engagement

No	Question	Details
4.	<b>Have you considered the available evidence?</b>	<p>Current passenger numbers using the service are 17,737 per year during the non term times.</p> <p>From 15.2.2010 the subsidy for Route 66 was reduced from £64,533 per annum to £34,999 per annum and the subsidy was altered to only support journeys during School Holidays until 2013.</p> <p>During 2010/11 – 14,622 passenger journeys were made.  During 2011/12 – 17,737 passenger journeys were made.</p> <p>To date during 2012 up until December 12 – 12,054 passenger journeys have been made.</p>

No	Question	Details									
5.	<b>How have you consulted on the proposal?</b>	<p>The current service provider has been informed that the Council intend to withdraw funding</p> <p>On 19.11.2009 we wrote to Stagecoach to award the tender and stated 'I trust we can work together to promote this part of the service with the aim that eventually the whole route will become commercially viable throughout the year.</p> <p>On 5.9.2012 we wrote to Stagecoach confirming the subsidy was coming to an end and asking if the route still wasn't commercially viable could we meet to discuss this.</p> <p>No response was received from the Managing Director therefore the issue was raised at our quarterly meeting on 8.11.12.</p> <p>On 4.12.2012 Strategic Services (David Whiteway) met with Stagecoach to discuss issues.</p> <p>On 8.1.13 we wrote to Stagecoach confirming financial support until the end of March 2013 and requesting their plans when the subsidy comes to an end.</p> <p>This proposal has been included as part of the public budget consultation running throughout January 2013. The questionnaire has been sent to members of the Viewpoint Panel and has been made publicly available in all connections offices, libraries and also online.</p>									
6.	<b>Outline the key findings</b>	<p>The feedback we have had from Stagecoach is that this route is still not commercially viable during School Holidays and they are still deciding what to do when the subsidy comes to an end.</p> <p><u>Torbay Budget Consultation:</u></p> <p><b>Q6.4) Do you support this proposal?</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1128 1193 1565 1321"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Number</th> <th>Percent</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>134</td> <td>45.4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>161</td> <td>54.6%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Number	Percent	Yes	134	45.4%	No	161	54.6%
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No	Question	Details					
		<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="1128 172 1249 220">Total</td> <td data-bbox="1249 172 1413 220">295</td> <td data-bbox="1413 172 1568 220">100.0%</td> </tr> </table>			Total	295	100.0%
Total	295	100.0%					
		<p data-bbox="557 260 1375 292">Less than half of respondents (45.4%) supported this proposal.</p> <p data-bbox="557 331 2047 395">There is little difference in the proportions of respondents who support this proposal between those with disabilities (42.4% in support) and those without disabilities (46.5% in support).</p> <p data-bbox="557 435 2128 531">Respondents who said no, they did not support the proposal were asked to say why they didn't support it. Key issues from these responses with examples of comments regarding the proposal are outlined in the Torbay Budget Consultation report.</p> <p data-bbox="557 571 1581 603">Please see Torbay Budget Consultation Report 2013 – 14 for more information</p>					
7.	<b>What amendments may be required as a result of the consultation?</b>	To be considered following ratification at Full Council					

## Positive and Negative Equality Impacts

No	Question	Details		
8.	Identify the potential positive and negative impacts on specific groups			
		Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact
	All groups in society generally		<p>A removal of a bus route will affect all groups using the bus service. At this point we are not aware of the particular groups who use the bus service outside of term time as no survey has been completed.</p> <p>Alternative bus routes are available to the majority of residents, although some residents may have to walk further than currently required to pick up services. Passengers may also need to change buses.</p>	
	Older or younger people		<p>There is no evidence to show that this group will be affected although there may be a significant number of over 60s affected who may use this bus service to visit Torbay Hospital. However alternative bus routes are available to this destination and others currently served by this bus route.</p> <p>The subsidy has been in respect of the service during non term times. Therefore access to education should not be affected. Younger people may be affected during non term times.</p>	

No	Question	Details	
	People with caring responsibilities		There is no evidence to show that this group will be differentially affected over and above that detailed for all groups in society generally.
	People with a disability		There is no evidence to show that this group will be affected although there may be a significant number of disabled people affected who may use this bus service to visit Torbay Hospital. There are alternative bus routes available to Torbay Hospital, but this may mean that users need to change buses or walk further than currently required to catch a bus. The buses are fully accessible for disabled persons.
	Women or men		There is no evidence to show that this group will be differentially affected over and above that detailed for all groups in society generally.
	People who are black or from a minority ethnic background (BME)		There is no evidence to show that this group will be differentially affected over and above that detailed for all groups in society generally.
	Religion or belief (including lack of belief)		There is no evidence to show that this group will be differentially affected over and above that detailed for all groups in society generally.
	People who are		There is no evidence to show that this

No	Question	Details	
	lesbian, gay or bisexual		group will be differentially affected over and above that detailed for all groups in society generally.
	People who are transgendered		There is no evidence to show that this group will be differentially affected over and above that detailed for all groups in society generally.
	People who are in a marriage or civil partnership		There is no evidence to show that this group will be differentially affected over and above that detailed for all groups in society generally.
	Women who are pregnant / on maternity leave		There is no evidence to show that this group will be differentially affected over and above that detailed for all groups in society generally.
	Socio-economic (including child poverty)		This decision will not have a negative socio-economic effect as the destinations reached by this service are reachable by other services, but may mean that travellers need to change buses.
9.	<b>Is there scope for your proposal to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and/or foster good relations?</b>	The removal of the bus service outside of term time maintains equality of opportunity as travellers will still be able to access the destinations served by this bus route.	



### Section 3: Steps required to manage the potential impacts identified

No	Action	Details
10.	Summarise any positive impacts and how they will be realised most effectively?	
11.	Summarise any negative impacts and how these will be managed?	The availability of other routes which serve the destinations served by this bus route will be publicised to current users of the service.

### Section 4: Recommended course of action

No	Action	Details
12.	State a recommended course of action  [please refer to action plan]	<b>Outcome 3: Continue with proposal -</b> This proposal should continue with current users of this route being advised as to the alternative routes available to them.

### Section 5: Monitoring and Action Plan

No	Action	Details
13.	Outline plans to monitor the actual impact of your proposals	Access to key services by public transport to be monitored through NI175  The Public Transport Officer will monitor feedback from the customer questionnaires during the next School Holidays.

## Action plan

No.	Action	Reason for action / contingency	Resources	Responsibility	Deadline date
1	Access to key services by public transport to be monitored through NI175	To ensure there is appropriate access through public transport.	Staff time	Public Transport Team	On-going
2	The Public Transport Officer will monitor feedback from the customer questionnaires during the next School Holidays.	To monitor the impact of the decision	Staff time	Public Transport Team	March 2013