

REPORT TO: RECESS SUB COMMITTEE - 11 AUGUST 2008

REPORT ON: LOCAL BUS SUBSIDY FOR SERVICES 69 & 72

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION

REPORT NO: 384-2008

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise of the proposed withdrawal of the current bus services Nos 69 & 72 and of the financial implications should the Council wish to seek to retain these services.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to approve the additional subsidy required for this service in 2008/09.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The additional subsidy of £9,500 in 2008/09 will be funded from the Planning & Transportation revenue budget.

4 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Stagecoach Strathtay have advised the Council that they intend to withdraw the Nos 69 and 72 bus services from 18 August 2008, as current passenger patronage is unable to sustain these services on a commercial basis. The No 69 route currently provides a service between West Ferry, Brook Street, Gray Street, Brook Street, Fort Street, Barnhill Shops, Balgillo Road, Forthill Road, Esplanade, and Dundee Seagate. The No 72 route currently provides a service between Ninewells Hospital, Victoria Hospital, Invergowrie Drive, Newhall Gardens, Speed Street, Windsor Street, Roseangle, Crichton Street, Tesco Riverside and Dundee Bus Station. These services are largely used by the elderly and cover a number of streets which, otherwise, would not have a bus service.
- 4.2 Discussions have been held with Stagecoach Strathtay regarding the withdrawal of these services. As a result of these, they have offered to provide a single vehicle off-peak (09.00-15.00) to operate a combined Service 69 & 72 at a reduced two hourly frequency (ie three return trips per day); this would require a subsidy from the Council of £35,000 per annum. At present, the Council subsidises the No 72 service by £18,000 per annum. A further appraisal of the operation of this new service will be undertaken before the budget for 2009/10 is fixed and the service will be promoted during that time to encourage greater use and hopefully reduce the subsidy required for 2009/10.
- 4.3 The Director of Planning & Transportation is currently investigating the potential to introduce a Demand Responsive Transport system within Dundee and is discussing this opportunity with Tactrans and Dundee Accessible Transport Action Group (DATAG). Such a system could offer an alternative service provision to existing patrons of the Council's Taxicard scheme and Subsidised Local Bus services. At present, there are no firm proposals for the introduction of Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) and it unlikely that a scheme could be operational before Summer 2009.

5 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This Report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management.

The major issues identified are the effects that the removal of these bus services would have on the personal mobility of the elderly in parts of Broughty Ferry and the West End.

6 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance), Head of Finance and Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning) have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None

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MPG/MS

24 July 2008

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