

ANGUS COUNCIL

PLANNING AND TRANSPORT POLICY COMMITTEE

22 NOVEMBER 2001

SUBJECT: PUBLIC TRANSPORT UPDATE

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORT

Abstract: This report updates Members of recent and proposed changes to local bus services in Angus. Details are given of the proposed level of local bus service provision over the Christmas and New Year holiday period. In addition, a number of service enhancements are planned to meet passenger needs that have been identified.

1 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee –

- 1 note the revisions to local bus services as outlined in this report;
- 2 note the arrangements for local bus service provision over the Christmas and New Year holiday period;
- 3 agree to the implementation of service enhancements outlined in this report.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report details recent changes to local bus services in Angus. The arrangements for local bus service provision over the Christmas and New Year holiday period are outlined. In addition, a number of service enhancements are detailed which will meet passenger demands for additional journeys.

3 SERVICE 20 : DUNDEE – FORFAR – KIRRIEMUIR

- 3.1 From 5 November 2001, Strathtay Scottish Ltd. introduced a revised route within Forfar for Service 20 to operate via North Street and Don Street. This route variation was a result of a recommendation from the Police that the previous route via John Street was not appropriate, particularly the exit onto Don Street where the sight lines are poor. A new bus stop has been erected on Don Street to cater for passengers requiring access to the Market Street area north and west of the North Street junction.

4 SERVICE 33 / 34 : KIRRIEMUIR – FORFAR – FRIOCKHEIM - ARBROATH

- 4.1 Meffan's Coaches amended the service 33 and 34 routes from 27 August 2001 to operate via Craichie instead of Dunnichen; this is as a result of changing requirements of students requiring access to Angus College.

5 SERVICE 28 : MONTROSE – CRAIGO – LAURENCEKIRK

5.1 From 5 November 2001, Merlin's Ark introduced the following additional journeys on this service:

17:45	Montrose – Borrowfield	17:50	(Mon – Fri)
08:35	Laurencekirk - Montrose	08:56	(Not Schooldays or Thurs)
08:59	Laurencekirk – Montrose	09:20	(Not Schooldays or Thurs)
09:05	Laurencekirk – Montrose	09:26	(Schooldays)

The following journeys were withdrawn:

17:04	Montrose – Laurencekirk	17:28	(Mon – Fri)
09:30	Laurencekirk – Montrose	09:55	(Mon – Fri)

In addition, the 17:32 Laurencekirk – Montrose has been curtailed to commence from Borrowfield.

No action is required by this Authority in respect of the journeys that were withdrawn, as there are adequate alternative facilities for passengers.

6 SERVICE 30 : MONTROSE – BRECHIN – STRACATHRO

6.1 From 5 November 2001, Merlin's Ark introduced a new late afternoon journey between Montrose and Brechin at 17:02 returning from Brechin at 17:23.

7 SERVICE 34 : BRECHIN TOWN SERVICE

7.1 From 5 November 2001, Merlin's Ark withdrew the Saturday night bus operating on this route operating to / from Flicks nightclub. No action has been taken by the Council following the withdrawal of this facility.

8 SERVICE 101 : MONTROSE – INVERBERVIE – STONEHAVEN

8.1 Strathtay Scottish Ltd. cancelled the operation of their Service 101 journeys from 8 October 2001 due to the withdrawal of subsidy for this service from Aberdeenshire Council. Merlin's Ark also operate on this corridor and from 5 November 2001 they introduced an enhanced timetable with additional journeys on Mondays to Fridays as follows:

09:50	Stonehaven – Montrose	10:39	(Not Thursdays)
11:50	Stonehaven – Montrose	12:27	(Not Thursdays)
16:00	Stonehaven – Montrose	16:37	(Not Schooldays)
08:58	Montrose – Stonehaven	09:47	(Not Schooldays or Thursdays)
10:58	Montrose – Stonehaven	11:47	(Not Thursdays)
14:40	Montrose – Inverbervie	15:13	(Schooldays)
14:40	Montrose – Stonehaven	15:29	(Not Schooldays)
17:05	Montrose – Inverbervie	17:38	(Not Schooldays)

Over recent years this corridor has seen a reduction in overall service provision, these additional journeys are therefore welcomed.

9 SERVICE 124 / 125 : FORFAR – KIRRIEMUIR / BALKEERIE

- 9.1 Meffans Coaches introduced a revised timetable with effect from 29 October 2001 to take into account the winter closure of Glamis Castle. Following passenger requests a return journey has been introduced between Kinnettles and Forfar. In addition, the 16:15 journey on Mondays to Fridays from Forfar to Eassie now operates to Blakeerie on request to the driver thereby providing an additional facility for residents.

10 SCHOOL / COLLEGE SERVICES

- 10.1 In addition to the above local bus service changes several other services have been revised since the start of the new academic year to cater for the changed requirements of scholars and students.

11 CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR LOCAL BUS SERVICE PROVISION

- 11.1 Strathtay Scottish Ltd. has informed the Council of their intended level of service provision over the Christmas and New Year holiday period. The level of service to be provided is as follows:

Monday, 24 December 2001	Normal Weekday Service (curtailed at 22:00)
Tuesday, 25 December 2001	No Service
Wednesday, 26 December 2001	Sunday Service
Thursday, 27 December 2001	Normal Weekday Service
Friday, 28 December 2001	Normal Weekday Service
Saturday, 29 December 2001	Normal Saturday Service
Sunday, 30 December 2001	Normal Sunday Service
Monday, 31 December 2001	Normal Weekday Service (curtailed at 22:00)
Tuesday, 1 January 2002	No Service
Wednesday, 2 January 2002	Sunday Service
Thursday, 3 January 2002	Normal Service

- 11.2 In previous years when Christmas and New Year have fallen at the weekend there were a number of consecutive days when no service was provided, this is not the case this year. The level of provision to be provided by Strathtay Scottish Ltd. is considered to be adequate to meet the requirements of bus users. Where shoppers' services would operate on Mondays or Tuesdays then Operators will be approached to consider running these on alternative days. It is considered that other Operators will provide a similar level of service provision to Strathtay Scottish Ltd. It is not anticipated that additional costs will be involved.

12 SCOTRAIL SUMMER TIMETABLE 2002

- 12.1 ScotRail are obliged under Section 7.4 of their franchise agreement to give reasonable notice to Local Authorities of significant proposed changes to passenger transport services. Accordingly, ScotRail has written to all Local Authorities detailing major service revisions planned for the Summer 2002 timetable. Three services in Scotland are subject to major change namely the new Edinburgh Crossrail service, one journey on the North Berwick to Garscadden line and an extension of the Sunday service on the Inverness / Kyle of Lochalsh / Thurso / Wick route. No major service alterations are planned which affect Angus.

13 SCOTTISH CITYLINK SERVICES

- 13.1 It was reported to the 23 August 2001 meeting of this Committee (Report 928/01 refers) that Scottish Citylink services on the Angus landward corridor via Forfar and Brechin were reduced from 1 October 2001 to leave only one coach in each direction per day.
- 13.2 In order to maintain links into the Scottish Citylink network negotiations have been on-going between Strathtay Scottish Ltd. and Scottish Citylink to utilise the Strathtay Scottish local bus services as feeder services into the express network and to provide through ticketing. As part of this proposal Strathtay Scottish Ltd's journeys would be advertised as connections in the Scottish Citylink timetable. This proposal is now being actively considered by lawyers to ensure that it does not contravene competition law. Members will be advised of the outcome of these negotiations in due course.

14 LOCAL BUS SERVICE ENHANCEMENTS

- 14.1 Members were informed at the meeting of this Committee on 23 August 2001 of the results of the tendering exercise undertaken in the Forfar, Brechin and Montrose areas. The revised contract costs were £39,750 less than for the contracts previously in place. Members were informed that there were a large number of service requests outstanding and that this money could go some way towards addressing these.
- 14.2 Prices have been sought for a number of additional journeys on existing contracted routes. The proposed enhancements are as follows :

Service 27: Forfar – Friockheim – Arbroath

- Additional journeys Monday to Friday at 19:30 and 22:50 ex Arbroath and 19:30 and 21:35 ex Forfar
- Additional journeys Saturdays at 19:30, 21:07 and 22:50 ex Arbroath and 18:35, 19:35 and 21:35 ex Forfar

The additional costs for providing these journeys would amount to £19,240 over a full year.

Service 34: Brechin Town Service

- Service enhanced to operate until 17.28 Mondays to Saturdays

The cost for providing these journeys would amount to £7,904 over a full year.

Service 48 : Montrose Town Service

- Service enhanced to provide later journeys until 17.26 on Monday to Saturday

The cost for providing these journeys would amount to £7,852 over a full year.

Service 115: Montrose Town Service (via Glens Estate, Charleton Park and Broomfield Road)

Service 116: Friockheim – Inverkeillor – Montrose

- Service to operate Service 115 incorporated with Service 116 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays at an additional cost of £2,532 over a full year.
- Service re-routed via Leysmills and connecting at Friockheim with Service 27 to Forfar or Arbroath

14.3 These additional journeys will be administered via variations to the existing contracts and will be subject to two months notice of termination. These services will be closely monitored and should the additional journeys fail to provide good value for money then they will be withdrawn.

15 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

15.1 The additional costs of these enhanced services amount to £37,528 per annum. The cost of these enhancements will be contained within the Planning and Transport Revenue Budget

16 CONSULTATION

16.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Finance and Director of Law and Administration have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

17 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

17.1 There are no human rights implications arising from this report.

18 CONCLUSION

18.1 The local bus service network continues to be kept under review and is amended as necessary to meet transport requirements. Where passenger requests have been received then the Council will seek to meet these within the financial resources that are available.

18.2 The level of service provision over the Christmas and New Year holiday period is currently being negotiated with Operators. It is not anticipated that any additional services will be required over the holiday period.

NOTE

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above Report.

AA/LEM/SC
12 November 2001

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