Report of the Director of Places

Decision to be taken after:
12 June 2013

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

**HIGHWAYS AND NEIGHBOURHOODS CABINET MEMBER**

# BUS SERVICE 55: SCUNTHORPE - APPLEBY – WINTERTON - BURTON

## 1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

1.1 The operator of the local bus service that runs between Scunthorpe, Appleby, Winterton and Burton upon Stather (service 55), has given notice to terminate their contract.

1.2 A decision is required on the future of this service.

1.3 This is an urgent matter because the current service will end on 26 July 2013.

## 2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 In 2011, the council awarded a contract to a local bus operator to provide Service 55 Monday to Friday. This service provides a link between Burton upon Stather and Winterton to allow Burton upon Stather residents to connect with service 350 buses to Hull.

2.2 The contract grew from school and college journeys and a small number of off peak journeys serving Appleby.

2.3 On 3 April the operator gave us early notice to end the contract, though it was due to run until August 2015.

## 3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 We have considered how we could replace this service. Our surveys show that the bus has few users outside the school peaks. Most of the passengers from Burton upon Stather are travelling through to Scunthorpe and could use service 60 for this purpose.

3.2 We suggest three options for consideration going forward as follows:

3.2.1 **Option 1:** Retender the service as it is now and secure another bus operator.

3.2.2 **Option 2:** Provide a school bus on schooldays only. Use a Council owned minibus to provide three return journeys in the middle of the day, Monday to Friday.

3.2.3 **Option 3:** Restrict service 55 to a school bus only, (the council must provide home to school transport between Santon, Appleby and Winteringham).

## 4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 Option 1 would likely prove very expensive for a relatively small number of users. In 2011, the current operators tender was by far the cheapest. The next lowest tender would have cost over £39,000 per year more.

4.2 With regard to option 2, we require a bus to take Appleby students to Scunthorpe and Santon and Appleby scholars to Winterton. In between school peaks, we can use a council-owned minibus to provide three return journeys over the whole route. A timetable is shown in the appendix. Running the minibus under community bus rules will mean that we can use a D1 licenced driver.

4.3 We estimate the cost of option 2 to be £10,500 more than the present arrangement. This is an effective way of serving a small number of people off-peak though there are some disadvantages:

- The number of journeys is reduced because the minibus must fit in with special school requirements.

- The minibus will not be as accessible as the buses that passengers are used to and there will be less room for shopping trolleys and push chairs.

4.4 Adopting option 3 would leave Santon and Appleby with no bus between school times and no bus at all on non-schooldays.

4.5 In light of the above, option 2 is suggested as the best option going forward.

## 5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

5.1 We estimate that the extra cost of option 2 will be £7,500 in 2013/14 and £10,500 in a full year.

5.2 The public transport budget is currently under pressure. We also face the uncertainty around changes planned for Bus Operator Service Grant in October.

5.3 In view of this and other commitments, it might be necessary to consider additional funding for public transport.

## 6. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (If Applicable)

6.1 There is no adverse effect unless we adopt option 3 and provide a school-time only service.

## 7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

7.1 We have consulted local ward members. They wish to maintain a regular service and favour option 2.

## 8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That the council provides a tendered schoolday only service plus a minibus running off-peak every weekday. (Option 2).

8.2 Members consider additional funding for public transport services in 2013/14 and subsequent years.

DIRECTOR OF PLACES

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**Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**
Information on file 13/1452.

Appendix

**Option 2 Timetable**

**Service 55** **Service During School Terms**

| | CDO Bus | SchO Bus | M-F Mbus | M-F Mbus | M-F Mbus | M-F Mbus | SchO Bus | CDO Bus |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Scunthorpe Bus Sta | … | 08:10 | … | 10:33 | 12:22 | 14:22 | … | 16:22 |
| High Santon | … | 08:20 | … | 10:43 | 12:32 | 14:32 | … | 16:32 |
| Appleby | … | 08:27 | … | 10:50 | 12:39 | 14:39 | … | 16:39 |
| Winterton | … | 08:45 | … | 10:58 | 12:47 | 14:47 | … | … |
| Thealby | … | … | … | 11:05 | 12:54 | 14:54 | … | … |
| Normanby | … | … | … | 11:07 | 12:56 | 14:56 | … | … |
| Burton | … | … | 09:40 | 11:10 | 12:59 | 14:59 | … | … |
| Thealby | … | … | 09:43 | 11:13 | 13:02 | … | … | … |
| Winterton | … | … | 09:52 | 11:22 | 13:11 | … | 15:35 | … |
| Appleby | 07:52 | … | 10:00 | 11:30 | 13:19 | … | 15:52 | … |
| High Santon | 07:58 | … | 10:06 | 11:36 | 13:25 | … | 15:58 | … |
| Scunthorpe Bus Sta | 08:08 | … | 10:16 | 11:46 | 13:35 | … | 16:08 | … |

**Service 55** **Service During School Holidays**

| | | | M-F Mbus | M-F Mbus | M-F Mbus | M-F Mbus | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Scunthorpe Bus Sta | … | … | … | 10:33 | 12:22 | 14:22 | … | … |
| High Santon | … | … | … | 10:43 | 12:32 | 14:32 | … | … |
| Appleby | … | … | … | 10:50 | 12:39 | 14:39 | … | … |
| Winterton | … | … | … | 10:58 | 12:47 | 14:47 | … | … |
| Thealby | … | … | … | 11:05 | 12:54 | 14:54 | … | … |
| Normanby | … | … | … | 11:07 | 12:56 | 14:56 | … | … |
| Burton | … | … | 09:40 | 11:10 | 12:59 | 14:59 | … | … |
| Thealby | … | … | 09:43 | 11:13 | 13:02 | … | … | … |
| Winterton | … | … | 09:52 | 11:22 | 13:11 | … | … | … |
| Appleby | … | … | 10:00 | 11:30 | 13:19 | … | … | … |
| High Santon | … | … | 10:06 | 11:36 | 13:25 | … | … | … |
| Scunthorpe Bus Sta | … | … | 10:16 | 11:46 | 13:35 | … | … | … |

Notes:

Mbus: Minibus
M-F Runs Monday to Friday
CDO Runs college days only
SchO Runs schooldays only