

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Executive Decision Record**

Decision Maker:	Executive Member – Environment and Transport
Date:	6 March 2012
Title:	Retendering of Local Bus Services – Winchester area
Reference:	3657
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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1. The decision:

- 1.1. That approval be given to award tenders for new local four year bus subsidy contracts for Winchester at a total cost of £277,753 per annum, of which £50,780 is met from the Home to School Transport budget.
- 1.2. That the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment be given delegated authority, in consultation with the Executive Member for Environment and Transport, to carry out all the necessary steps to implement additional late evening journeys in Winchester, should external funding be confirmed by Winchester Town Forum.

2. Reason for the decision:

- 2.1. The current Winchester area local bus contracts expire on 9 June 2012. Approval to award tenders will continue to give access to employment, education, health, retail and leisure facilities for the widest section of the community whilst reflecting the current financial environment.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. Options for Community Transport solutions have been considered where appropriate, however the volume of passengers recorded on some individual journeys would exceed the capacity of Community Transport alternatives.
- 3.2. Other timetable options including exploring enhancements to services were rejected on the grounds of not proving affordable within current budget levels or consistent with the outcomes of the 2011 Bus Subsidy Review.
- 3.3. Withdraw funding from bus contracts leaving local residents without access to vital local services.

4. Conflicts of interest:

4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None

4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None

5. Dispensation granted by the Standards Committee: none.

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

In reaching my decision to accept the recommendation I have carefully considered the deputation from Councillor Collin and the written submission from Ben Davies in support of provision of additional evening bus services in Winchester. We carried out a comprehensive review of subsidised bus services last summer, and established a policy which ensured the budget was targeted most effectively on key daytime services. I do not believe that it is financially prudent to consider a change of policy at the current time.

I have also considered the petition which refers to service gaps in Alresford. I am content that discussion should take place with the operator once a contract is awarded, to explore the opportunities for varying the schedule within Alresford to address this matter, if this can be satisfactorily done without significant disruption to this service elsewhere on the route.

Approved by:	Date:
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Executive Member for Environment and Transport Councillor M J Kendal	

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