

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Decision Report**

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment
Date:	21 January 2014
Title:	Procurement of Alton former Cango Bus and extension of existing Burghclere bus service
Reference:	5507
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

Contact name: Sue Knight

Tel: 01962 846922

Email: sue.knight@hants.gov.uk

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to seek approval to procure and spend for the provision of a public bus service under the dynamic purchasing system. The resulting Alton and Alresford rural service contract will be for one year with the option of extending annually for a further three years. The cost will be £29,450 for 1 year duration with an option to extend annually for 3 years with an estimated value, allowing for contract price inflation, of £123,000 over 4 years of which £123,000 relates to Hampshire County Council.
- 1.2. This report proposes a bus service between Alton town centre and the villages of Binsted, Froyle, Bentley, Blacknest, Beech, Medstead, Bentworth and Lasham on a Tuesday and Friday and between New Alresford and the villages of Ropley, Gundleton and Bighton on a Monday and Thursday which will maintain a transport link, thereby supporting quality of life as well as achieving value for money. This service will reflect the current financial situation and the budget that is allocated.
- 1.3. The current Burghclere Bus Service has historically been tendered in the Basingstoke area tenders as Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council provide funding for the service, but geographically, the service is best suited to be included in the Test Valley tender round with which the proposed extension will align.

2. Contextual information

- 2.1. Alton and Alresford 206/208/240 services were originally run as Cango services C41/C42 and C44 using two vehicles with a flexible route. When it was retendered in October 2011 the route devised fully employed one vehicle with specific days and timings.
- 2.2. The new timetable responds to requests from the local member, Councillor Porter, that the service of one return journey for the Old Alresford area did not meet residents' needs. The new service will now provide four journeys and serve areas that lost their commercially provided service when the Stagecoach 64 service was re-routed in October 2011.

- 2.3. Currently the 208 and 240 are not well used due to the timings and length of the journey. The new service addresses this and now provides links on market days with better opportunities for onward connections.
- 2.4 The Burghclere Cango C21/C22 service employed one demand responsive vehicle. Since October 2011 the replacement service 21/22/23/24 has followed a similar route but with a fixed route and timetable. Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council currently contributes 50% towards the cost. Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council is undertaking a budget review of transport support. The extension should allow the outcome of the review and future funding availability to be known as well as allowing options to be developed to incorporate the service within the Test Valley retendering exercise.
- 2.5 A full tender was issued to comply with Procurement legislation.

3. Finance

- 3.1. The annual cost for the 4 day a week 206/208/240 service is £29,450 which will be met from the Passenger Transport budget.
- 3.2. Currently the Burghclere service 21/22/23/24 costs £135,000 per annum, with a 50% contribution from Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council and passenger revenue of approximately £19,000. It is proposed that this service be extended for a further 6 months when the results of the Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council Transport Review should be known and to bring it in line with the Test Valley Retendering Area so that a revised service can be tendered within the budget that will be available.

4. Performance

- 4.1. The proposed 206/208 Alton service will provide better links with Alton Town centre. The 240 service will provide additional journeys, cover roads that had lost a bus service when Stagecoach redesigned its commercial route, and also reduce the length of the current route enabling additional journeys to be made within the resources and budget available. The extension of the operation of the Burghclere service will allow inclusion within tenders for the Test Valley area which will create potential efficiencies.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1. That approval to procure and spend be given for a public bus service for the Alton & Alresford rural area under the Dynamic Purchasing System. The resulting contract will be of up to 1 year duration with an option to extend annually for up to 3 years with an estimated value of £123,000 over four years, of which £123,000 relates to Hampshire County Council.
- 5.2 That approval be given to extend the current contract B308 for the Burghclere area bus services 21/22/23/24 for 6 months in order that it can be brought in line and incorporated within renewal of contracts for the Test Valley retendering area with an estimated value of £67,500 over six months, of which £33,750 relates to Hampshire County Council.

- 5.3 That the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment be authorised to agree any variations to the items approved referred to at paragraphs 5.1 and 5.2 above, in consultation with the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	Yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents	
<p>The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)</p>	
<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

- 1.1 The proposals in this report have been developed with due regard to the requirements of the Equality Act 2010, including the Public Sector Equality Duty and the Council's equality objectives. An assessment of the impacts in this service area can be found at <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/equality/equality-impact-assessments/cx-pu-eqimpact-envi.htm>
- 1.2 It is considered that the issues covered by this report will not have impacts requiring further specific actions by the Council above those already established in its existing policies and working procedures.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

- 2.1. It is not anticipated that this proposal will have an impact on crime and disorder.

3. Climate Change:

- 3.1. How what does is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?
The provision of a public transport alternative reduces the need for car use.
- 3.2. How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

The timetable provided is being adapted to closely match the local need for travel.