

ANGUS COUNCIL**PLANNING AND TRANSPORT POLICY COMMITTEE****8 JUNE 1999****SUBJECT: PUBLIC TRANSPORT UPDATE****REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORT**

Abstract: This report updates Committee on recent changes to public transport within Angus.
--

1 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee -

- 1 Note the renewal of local bus service contracts as outlined in this report.
- 2 Note the renewal of school conveyance contracts in the Brechin and Montrose areas and the retendering of swimming, sport and music centre contracts throughout Angus.
- 3 Note the renewal of the service agreement with Angus College for the Transport team to organise and administer their transport arrangements for the next three years.
- 4 Note the public transport arrangements which have been put into place in respect of the Carnoustie Open Golf Championship.
- 5 Note the progress being made in relation to expenditure on the Public Transport Fund Grant.
- 6 Note the arrangements being put in place to accommodate public transport access to Eathiebeaton Park.
- 7 Note the service revisions introduced by Scottish CityLink and Bluebird Coaches.
- 8 Note the fares increase introduced by Royal Mail Postbuses.
- 9 Note the proposed passenger rail timetable for 2002/2003 for Cross Country Trains and the response made in respect of the proposals.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report outlines local bus service and school conveyance contracts which are currently being retendered. Committee is also advised of recent and proposed public transport developments within Angus.

3 RENEWAL OF LOCAL BUS SERVICE CONTRACTS

- 3.1 Tenders will shortly be invited for replacement facilities on the Forfar - Fern - Tannadice (Service 118) and Forfar - Brechin - Montrose (Service 119) corridors as the existing contracts are due to expire on 12 and 14 August 1999 respectively. On-bus surveys have been undertaken and community councils and local members consulted to establish whether or not there are any changes they wish to see to the existing services. On receipt of all this information new contract specifications will be drawn up and tenders sought.
- 3.2 Contracts for the evening town services in Arbroath and one journey on a Saturday morning are due to terminate on 25 September 1999. In addition, one journey on the Dundee - Murroes - Glamis - Kirriemuir corridor at 1750 on Mondays to Saturdays is also being reviewed. A consultation exercise is similarly underway regarding these services and replacement tenders will be sought as appropriate in due course.

4 RENEWAL OF SCHOOL TRANSPORT CONVEYANCE CONTRACTS

- 4.1 The Transport Team organises Education Transport on behalf of the Director of Education. The school conveyance contracts are re-tendered on a three year rolling programme and this year contracts are being renewed for home to school transport in the Brechin and Montrose areas together with all swimming, sport and Music Centre contracts. Tenders are currently being sought for home to school transport in the Brechin and Montrose areas and it is anticipated that the results of these tenders will be reported to the Education Committee on 8 June 1999. Should there be any changes to the local bus service network as a result of this retendering exercise then these will be reported to a subsequent meeting of this Committee.

5 ANGUS COLLEGE - SERVICE AGREEMENT

- 5.1 The responsibility for organising transport to Colleges passed from the Director of Education to the Colleges themselves from 1 April 1996. Since that time the Transport Team have continued to organise the student transport on behalf of Angus College under a service agreement.
- 5.2 Transport is arranged for approximately 500 students who are deemed by the College to be entitled to free transport. This involves tendering contracts and negotiating block deal rates with Operators, allocating students to services, issuing passes, monitoring services and dealing with all administrative and operational aspects of the transport provided. The services to the College are all available to the general public and carry substantial numbers of fare paying passengers.
- 5.3 To date the service agreement has been negotiated on an annual basis, however, this year agreement has been reached for a three year agreement to be entered into.

6 CARNOUSTIE OPEN GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

- 6.1 Arrangements for public transport access to the Open Golf Championship at Carnoustie in July 1999 are now in place. All ScotRail trains will stop at Carnoustie and in addition Virgin/GNER will provide 7 trains per day, this will give a total of 80

trains a day on Thursday and Friday, 81 on Saturday and 46 on Sunday. ScotRail are currently producing a timetable leaflet outlining these services.

- 6.2 Local bus services will be revised and augmented on a commercial basis by Strathtay Scottish Ltd in order to cater for the additional useage and altered traffic arrangements.

7 PUBLIC TRANSPORT FUND GRANT

- 7.1 It was reported to this Committee on 20 April 1999 (Report 448/99 refers) that the Scottish Office had awarded £475,000 to a Partnership bid submitted by Angus Council, Dundee City Council, Travel Dundee, Strathtay Scottish Ltd., Scottish Enterprise Tayside and Ninewells Hospital Trust. This funding is for a cache of measures to benefit public transport on the Ninewells to Carnoustie Corridor including :

- the introduction of transponders to control traffic signals and give priority to buses;
- an electronic tracking system to give passengers at selected stops up to the minute information on when the next bus is due (this information system will also be extended to the outer circle in Dundee);
- Kassel type kerbing to be introduced to complement the operation of low-floor vehicles and thereby improve access to buses

- 7.2 Site visits have been undertaken on the corridors concerned and possible locations for real time information to be installed have been identified. The Company which is to provide the system is currently establishing the costs involved and once these are known then discussions can begin between the partners to identify which sites will be involved. Committee will continue to be advised on progress in relation to this grant expenditure.

8 LOCAL BUS SERVICES TO EATHIEBEATON PARK

- 8.1 At the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee on 27 April 1999 it was reported that the service road in front of Dobbies is to be extended through to Kingennie Road (Report 475/99 refers). It is anticipated that this road will be completed by the end of July 1999 and it has been agreed with Strathtay Scottish Ltd. that following the completion of this road that the Monikie to Dundee (Services 78 & 79) and the Monifieth, Panmuirfield, Eathiebeaton Park (Service 71) would use this link road. In addition, it was also agreed at the Policy and Resources Committee that bus lay-bys would be installed on the A92 at Eathiebeaton Park which would permit access to the site for public transport users.

9 SCOTTISH CITYLINK - SUMMER TIMETABLE

- 9.1 A new summer timetable has been introduced from 24 May 1999. This sees a major timetable improvement on the Glasgow - Dundee - Forfar - Aberdeen corridor which will now have a two hourly service. In addition, a new journey will be introduced on Monday to Saturday mornings from Dundee via Arbroath to Aberdeen providing an arrival time of 0835. Later evening journeys will also be provided from Aberdeen via Arbroath to Dundee daily at 1930 and also on Sundays at 2030.

10 BLUEBIRD COACHES - SERVICE REVISIONS

- 10.1 A new timetable for services 107/117 on the Montrose - Stonehaven - Aberdeen corridor was introduced on 31 May 1999. The services have been re-numbered 101 and have been re-timed in order to provide good connections with Strathgry Scottish Ltd. services both north and south of Montrose. This new service has been extended from the Railway Station in Montrose to serve Rossie Island Road.

11 ROYAL MAIL (POST BUS) FARES INCREASE

- 11.1 Royal Mail Postbuses have informed the Council of their intention to increase Postbus fares with effect from 14 June 1999. All fares will be increased by 2.5% with fares rounded to the nearest 5 pence.

12 CROSSCOUNTRY TRAINS - PROPOSED VIRGIN TIMETABLE FOR 2002/3

- 12.1 Railtrack and Virgin Trains have jointly developed proposals for changes to CrossCountry passenger train services to be introduced in 2002/2003. Responses to the proposals were requested by 7 June 1999. The proposals are for the extension of all journeys north from Manchester to operate through to Dundee, this would give a two-hourly interval service of 7 north-bound and 9 south-bound trains. Currently there is only one north-bound and two south-bound trains to/from Dundee. Services operating through to Angus will be little affected by the proposals there being one north-bound and one south-bound train currently and one north-bound and two south-bound proposed. The proposals offer good connections at Edinburgh with southbound trains on the east coast main line but very poor connections northbound. Railtrack/Virgin Trains have therefore been requested by the Council to delay northbound trains at Edinburgh by 6 minutes in order to provide good passenger connections.

13 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 Income from the Service Level Agreement negotiated with Angus College includes an administrative fee of £4,800 per annum together with an allowance for inflation. There are no additional financial implications arising from this report.

14 CONSULTATION

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

15 CONCLUSION

- 15.1 The local bus service network continues to be kept under review both in respect of re-tendering of existing services and responding to service changes. Opportunities to co-ordinate local bus services with other transport requirements such as those for school and college transport are actively pursued to ensure efficient use of vehicle resources and achieve value for money.

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/KW
28 May 1999

Alex Anderson
Director of Planning and Transport

