

ANGUS COUNCIL

PLANNING AND TRANSPORT POLICY COMMITTEE

26 AUGUST 1999

SUBJECT: PUBLIC TRANSPORT UPDATE

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORT

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

1 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee:-

- 1 note the minor timetable revisions to Services 23/23E Forfar Town services;
- 2 note the revision to the Tayway Service in particular the provision of an evening service to Dundee for the residents of Easthaven;
- 3 note the retiral of G Bruce and the consequent retendering of contracts held by that Company. Homologate the award by the Director of Planning and Transport of replacement contracts as outlined in this report;
- 4 note the requests for service improvements on the Brechin to Arbroath corridor and homologate the award by the Director of Planning and Transport of de-minimis contracts to G & N Wishart for the provision of an hourly service. In addition, Committee is asked to note the introduction of a joint ticketing arrangement between G & N Wishart and Strathtay Scottish Ltd;
- 5 note the fares increase by Strathtay Scottish Ltd. introduced on 26 July 1999;
- 6 note the useage of the Bank Holiday services provided on 3 May 1999 by Strathtay Scottish Ltd. under a subsidy contract to the Council.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report advises Committee of recent and proposed public transport changes within Angus.

3 SERVICE 23/23E - FORFAR TOWN SERVICE

- 3.1 Minor timetable changes were introduced from 17 August 1999 on Service 23/23E Forfar Town services. These alterations were made to accommodate the transport requirements of Forfar Academy following a change to the school's lunch hour.

4 SERVICE 40/40A - MONTROSE - ARBROATH - DUNDEE

- 4.1 From 16 August 1999, Strathtay Scottish Ltd. revised their Tayway Service. The majority of the changes were minor timing alterations with the exception of the Service 40A journey which departs from Arbroath at 1845. This journey has been re-numbered 40E and operates via Easthaven to arrive in Dundee at 1938. This

alteration follows negotiations between the Council and the operator to re-schedule services to meet requests from local residents for such an evening facility.

**5 SERVICE 117 - FORFAR - MCCULLOCH DRIVE - TOLL CRESCENT
SERVICE 118 - FORFAR - FERN - TANNADICE - FORFAR**

- 5.1 G Bruce operated Service 117 a local service in Forfar to McCulloch Drive and Toll Crescent and Service 118 operating between Forfar, Fern and Tannadice. Both these services were provided under a de-minimis contract to the Council. The operator retired and ceased to trade on 14 August 1999 and as a consequence a replacement facility had to be sought.
- 5.2 The retendering exercise has resulted in some minor timetable and route changes which will be of particular benefit to Tannadice residents as the bus service now offers a direct journey to/from Forfar. Unfortunately the 1450 journey to Justinhaugh and Tannadice has been withdrawn as surveys identified only one regular user of this journey.
- 5.3 The replacement contract was awarded to Meffans Coaches who were the lowest tenderer. The subsidy per mile of £0.57 and subsidy per passenger of £1.75 for this contract are within the Council's subsidy per mile and subsidy per passenger criteria of £1.25 and £2.50 respectively as outlined in Angus Council's Public Transport Policy Statement (Report 261/96 refers). The contract cost is £4004 per annum which can be accommodated in the Planning and Transport Department's Revenue Budget for 1999/2000.

6 SERVICE 119 - FORFAR - MONTROSE

- 6.1 G Bruce also operated Service 119 between Forfar and Montrose. Prior to this service being retendered full on-bus surveys were undertaken to establish passenger requirements. In addition, community councils and local members were consulted. It was found that very few passengers were using this service and that useage was split between passengers travelling between Forfar and Brechin and those travelling between Friockheim and Montrose. In light of these findings amended services were drawn up to provide replacement facilities.
- 6.2 A new Service 119 was tendered to operate between Forfar and Brechin only. This service provides a connection at Brechin with Strathtay Scottish Ltd.'s Service 30 for any passengers who wish to travel through to/from Montrose. In addition, through fares are available, therefore passengers will not be financially penalised for having to change buses. Due to public demand this service will also operate to/from Brechin Health Centre. A contract for this service has been awarded to Meffans Coaches Ltd. at a cost of £3276 per annum. £1850 of the cost of this contract will be met from the Rural Transport Fund this being for the diversion of the service via West Muir and Little Brechin and payment for an additional day of operation of the contract which was introduced in February 1999. This contract meets the subsidy per passenger and subsidy per mile criteria set by the Council.
- 6.3 New services 115 and 116 have also been introduced these will provide the replacement facility between Friockheim and Montrose for passengers previously travelling on Service 119. Contracts for both services 115 and 116 connect at Friockheim with services to/from Forfar and through fares will be available. Service 115 will operate on Wednesdays only and will follow the route of the former Service

119 between Friockheim and Montrose. Service 116 will operate on Fridays and will be routed from Friockheim via Inverkeilor and Lunan to Montrose. This will provide a public bus service for the first time to the residents of Chapelton, Lunan and Barns of Craig. Both these services will continue to operate via Grampian View in Ferryden. Previously the Service 119 had operated on Tuesdays and Thursdays, however as there is a free bus to Tesco's in Montrose operating on Thursdays from Friockheim it was decided that it would be more beneficial to residents in the area if the contracted service were to operate on Fridays.

- 6.4 Contracts for Services 115 and 116 were awarded to Strathtay Scottish Ltd. at a cost of £4264 per annum. £2132 will be met from the Rural Transport Grant allocation for the introduction of a new service via Lunan. As the route of Service 116 is new no subsidy per passenger figures could be calculated for this contract.

7 SERVICE 140 - AUCHMITHIE - ARBROATH - BRECHIN - STRACATHRO HOSPITAL

- 7.1 Members will recall that at the meeting of this Committee on 28 January 1999 it was reported that resulting from the award by the Scottish Office of a Rural Transport Grant of £124,000 to the Council many rural transport services were to be improved. These improvements included the introduction of an hourly service on the Forfar to Arbroath corridor (Report 88/99 refers). Since the improvements were made on the Arbroath to Forfar corridor many requests have been received for a similar enhancement of the services on the Brechin to Arbroath corridor.
- 7.2 To date it appears that the service enhancements on the Forfar to Arbroath corridor have been quite successful with the current subsidy per passenger and subsidy per mile levels being £0.66 and £0.29 respectively. The Council's criteria as outlined in the Public Transport Policy Statement (Report 261/96 refers) are that subsidy will only be paid where the subsidy per passenger does not exceed £2.50 and the subsidy per mile £1.25. The figures for the Forfar - Arbroath corridor are well within these criteria and in light of this it was decided that the request for additional journeys on the Brechin to Arbroath corridor should be investigated.
- 7.3 Service 140 is operated commercially by Travel Dundee and negotiations therefore took place with that company to investigate the introduction of additional journeys on a de-minimis basis. The main features of the new timetable which will be introduced on 6 September 1999 are as follows:
- Provision of an hourly service between Brechin and Arbroath
 - The re-timing of the morning peak journey from Arbroath to Brechin to meet passenger requests for a later arrival time in Brechin
 - The provision of four additional through journeys between Arbroath and Stracathro Hospital
 - Introduction of an evening journey on Mondays to Saturdays at 1915 from Arbroath to Friockheim

- 7.4 It should be noted that the Forfar to Arbroath service already provides an hourly facility between Friockheim and Arbroath and therefore in order not to detract from that service it was agreed that service improvements on the Brechin to Arbroath corridor should link in with these journeys at Friockheim. The additional journeys will therefore operate between Brechin and Friockheim.
- 7.5 Linking in with the existing Service 27 journeys at Friockheim will utilise vehicles most efficiently and is in line with the Government's policies on integration. Changing between services operated by two different contractors will normally result in fares to the passenger being higher as two separate tickets will have to be purchased. Negotiations have therefore taken place with both Strathtay Scottish Ltd. and G & N Wishart to pursue the introduction of a joint ticketing arrangement between the two companies. Agreement was reached over this with the result that passengers will be able to buy a through ticket from either operator for their journey over the Arbroath to Brechin route. This arrangement will have to be registered by the two companies with the Office of Fair Trading and in order to facilitate this joint working the Council have agreed to audit the ticket sales and calculate any re-imburement between the operators.
- 7.6 Members will recall that a Quality Partnership was entered into with Travel Dundee on the Service 140 corridor in March 1999 for the introduction of a super-low-floor wheelchair accessible vehicle to operate on Service 140 between Auchmithie, Arbroath, Brechin and Stracathro Hospital (Report 273/99 refers). Travel Dundee have agreed to purchase a further such vehicle for the operation of the additional journeys on this contract. Feedback to date on the operation of the low-floor bus has been most encouraging with passengers who are confined to wheelchairs being regular users of the service.
- 7.7 Committee is asked to homologate the award by the Director of Planning and Transport of de-minimis contracts to Travel Dundee for the enhancement of services on the Brechin to Arbroath corridor. In total the cost of £46,000 per annum will be met from the Rural Public Transport Grant. A timetable showing the proposed service to be introduced on 6 September 1999 is contained in Appendix 1 to this report.

8 STRATHTAY SCOTTISH LTD. - FARES INCREASE

- 8.1 Strathtay Scottish Ltd. increased fares on its services by approximately 3% from 26 June 1999. This increase was restricted to fares under £2.50. This fares increase will result in increased expenditure in reimbursement to the operator for revenue foregone under the Travel Concession Scheme. This increase can be contained within the 1999/2000 Revenue Budget for the Planning and Transport Department.

9 PROVISION OF BANK HOLIDAY SERVICES - 3 MAY 1999

- 9.1 On the May Bank Holiday it is a condition of contract for tendered services provided by the Council that the normal Monday timetable is operated. Where operation is commercial it is up to the individual operator whether or not they wish to operate. In most cases the commercial operation provided is the Sunday timetable. On many routes there is no Sunday operation with the consequence being that the communities covered by these services have no public transport that day. It should be noted that many individuals now work on Bank Holidays and a significant number

of retail outlets are open, this has resulted in requests being made to the Council to subsidise services on Bank Holidays.

- 9.2 In order to assess useage the Council entered into a de-minimis contract with Strathtay Scottish Ltd for the operation of their services according to the Monday timetable on 3 May 1999. The cost of this agreement was £400 for the day. The useage was significant with approximately 2000 passengers using these additional journeys at a subsidy per passenger of £0.20. As a result of the success of this enhancement further consideration will be given to the operation of additional services on Bank Holidays. Discussions are currently taking place with operators to establish what the commercial provision will be over the Christmas and New Year period.

10 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The cost of replacement local bus services to be met from the Planning and Transport Revenue Budget for 1999/2000 is £7562. The previous contracts totalled £7982; therefore savings will accrue to the Council of £420 per annum.
- 10.2 The expenditure outlined in respect of additional services to be met from the Rural Transport Grant amount to £49,982 in a full year. This expenditure can be accommodated within the Council's Rural Transport Grant allocation.
- 10.3 The additional re-imbusement for participation in the Council's Travel Concession Scheme to Strathtay Scottish Ltd. resulting from their recent fares increase can be accommodated in the Planning and Transport Department's Revenue Budget for 1999/2000.

11 CONSULTATION

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

12 CONCLUSION

- 12.1 The public transport network continues to be kept closely under review. Consultation takes place regularly with operators to negotiate service revisions to meet requests for additional or amended services. Where contracts are retendered a comprehensive consultation exercise takes place with bus users and the wider community to establish the transport requirements and subsequently draw up new timetables. In addition, opportunities for the further development of services through joint working between operators and the provision of quality vehicles are actively pursued in line with the Council's Policies as outlined in the Public Transport Policy Statement.

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
16 August 1999

Alex Anderson
Director of Planning and Transport

Arbroath - Friockheim - Brechin - Stracathro Hospital**Service 140****Mondays to Fridays**

	Code:										Sch
Auchmithie	....	....	0825	....	....	1035	....	....	1245	....	1430
Arbroath Bus Station	0640	0750	0840	<i>0920</i>	<i>1020</i>	1050	<i>1120</i>	<i>1220</i>	1300	<i>1420</i>	1445
RM Condor	0650	0800	0850	<i>0927</i>	<i>1027</i>	1100	<i>1127</i>	<i>1227</i>	1310	<i>1427</i>	1455
Colliston Inn	0653	0803	0853	<i>0929</i>	<i>1029</i>	1103	<i>1129</i>	<i>1229</i>	1313	<i>1429</i>	1458
Friockheim Bus Stance arrive	0700	0810	0900	<i>0935</i>	<i>1035</i>	1110	<i>1135</i>	<i>1235</i>	1320	<i>1435</i>	1505
Friockheim Bus Stance depart	0700	0810	0900	0935	1035	1110	1135	1235	1320	1435	....
Brechin Clerk Street	0720	0830	0920	0955	1055	1130	1155	1255	1340	1455	....
Stracathro Hospital	....	....	0930	1005	....	1140	....	....	1350	1505	....

	Code:					A	
Auchmithie	....	....	1615	1755	....	1900	2238
Arbroath Bus Station arrive	....	....	1630	1810	....	1915	2259
Arbroath Bus Station depart	<i>1515</i>	<i>1610</i>	1640	....	1820	1915	....
RM Condor	<i>1522</i>	<i>1617</i>	1650	....	1830	1925	....
Colliston Inn	<i>1524</i>	<i>1619</i>	1653	....	1833	1928	....
Friockheim Bus Stance arrive	<i>1530</i>	<i>1625</i>	1700	....	1840	1935	....
Friockheim Bus Stance depart	1530	1635	1700	....	1840	....	....
Brechin Clerk Street	1550	1655	1720	....	1900	....	....
Stracathro Hospital	....	....	....	....	1910	....	....

Codes: A Journey operated by Strathtay Scottish (Tel: 01241 870646)
 Sch Operates on schooldays only

Saturdays

Auchmithie	....	0845	....	....	1035	....	....	1245	....	....	....
Arbroath Bus Station	<i>0810</i>	0900	<i>0920</i>	<i>1020</i>	1050	<i>1120</i>	<i>1220</i>	1300	<i>1420</i>	<i>1520</i>	<i>1620</i>
RM Condor	<i>0817</i>	0910	<i>0927</i>	<i>1027</i>	1100	<i>1127</i>	<i>1227</i>	1310	<i>1427</i>	<i>1527</i>	<i>1627</i>
Colliston Inn	<i>0819</i>	0913	<i>0929</i>	<i>1029</i>	1103	<i>1129</i>	<i>1229</i>	1313	<i>1429</i>	<i>1529</i>	<i>1629</i>
Friockheim Bus Stance arrive	<i>0825</i>	0920	<i>0935</i>	<i>1035</i>	1110	<i>1135</i>	<i>1235</i>	1320	<i>1435</i>	<i>1535</i>	<i>1635</i>
Friockheim Bus Stance depart	0825	....	0935	1035	1110	1135	1235	1320	1435	1535	1635
Brechin Clerk Street	0845	....	0955	1055	1130	1155	1255	1340	1455	1555	1655
Stracathro Hospital	....	....	1005	....	1140	....	....	1350	1505	....	....

	Code:					A
Auchmithie	1615	....	1755	1900	2238	
Arbroath Bus Station arrive	1630	....	1810	1915	2259	
Arbroath Bus Station depart	1640	<i>1735</i>	....	1915	....
RM Condor	1650	<i>1742</i>	....	1925	....
Colliston Inn	1653	<i>1744</i>	....	1928	....
Friockheim Bus Stance arrive	1700	<i>1750</i>	....	1935	....
Friockheim Bus Stance depart	1700	1800	....	....	....
Brechin Clerk Street	1720	1820	....	....	....
Stracathro Hospital	....	....	....	....	....

Sundays

1245	....	1635	....
1300	....	1650	....
1300	1440	....	1900
1310	1450	....	1910
1313	1453	....	1913
1320	1500	....	1920
1320	1500	....	1920
1340	1520	....	1940
1350	1530	....	....

Code: A Journey operated by Strathtay Scottish (Tel: 01241 870646)

Please remember: Times in *italics* are for connections to and from Arbroath and Friockheim on Strathtay Scottish Service 27. Through fares available.

Stracathro Hospital - Brechin - Friockheim - Arbroath**Service 140****Mondays to Fridays**

	Code:						Sch					
Stracathro Hospital	....	....	....	0930	1005	....	1140	....	....	....	1405
Brechin South Esk Street	....	0730	0905	0940	1015	1115	1150	1215	1315	....	1415
Friockheim Bus Stance arrive	....	0750	0925	1000	1035	1135	1210	1235	1335	....	1435
Friockheim Bus Stance depart	0730	0750	0925	1000	1035	1135	1210	1235	1335	1355	1435	
Colliston Inn	0737	0757	0931	1007	1041	1141	1217	1241	1341	1402	1441	
RM Condor	0740	0800	0933	1010	1043	1143	1220	1243	1343	1405	1443	
Arbroath Bus Station	0750	0810	0940	1020	1050	1150	1230	1250	1350	1415	1450	
Auchmithie	....	0825	....	1035	....	....	1245	....	....	1430	....

	Code:						A					
Stracathro Hospital	1510	....	....	....	....	2010	....	....	....	....	....
Brechin South Esk Street	1520	1615	1700	1740	....	2020	....	....	....	....	....
Friockheim Bus Stance arrive	1540	1635	1720	1800	....	2040	....	....	....	....	....
Friockheim Bus Stance depart	1540	1645	1720	1800	....	R	....	....	....	....	....
Colliston Inn	1547	1651	1727	1807	....	R	....	....	....	....	....
RM Condor	1550	1653	1730	1810	....	R	....	....	....	....	....
Arbroath Bus Station	1600	1700	1740	1820	1845	R	2220	....	....	....	....
Auchmithie	1615	....	1755	....	1900	....	2238	....	....	....	....

Codes: A Journey operated by Strathtay Scottish (Tel: 01241 870646)
 R Operates beyond Friockheim to Arbroath on request to driver
 Sch Operates on schooldays only

Saturdays

Stracathro Hospital	....	....	....	1005	....	1140	....	....	1405	1510	....
Brechin South Esk Street	....	0905	....	1015	1115	1150	1215	1315	1415	1520	1615
Friockheim Bus Stance arrive	....	0925	....	1035	1135	1210	1235	1335	1435	1540	1635
Friockheim Bus Stance depart	0810	0925	1000	1035	1135	1210	1235	1335	1435	1540	1635
Colliston Inn	0817	0931	1007	1041	1141	1217	1241	1341	1441	1547	1641
RM Condor	0820	0933	1010	1043	1143	1220	1243	1343	1443	1550	1643
Arbroath Bus Station	0830	0940	1020	1050	1150	1230	1250	1350	1450	1600	1650
Auchmithie	0845	....	1035	....	....	1245	....	....	....	1615	....

	Code:						A				Sundays			
Stracathro Hospital	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Brechin South Esk Street	1700	1740	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Friockheim Bus Stance arrive	1720	1800	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Friockheim Bus Stance depart	1720	1800	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Colliston Inn	1727	1806	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
RM Condor	1730	1808	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Arbroath Bus Station	1740	1815	1845	2220	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Auchmithie	1755	....	1900	2238	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....

Code: A Journey operated by Strathtay Scottish (Tel: Arbroath (01241) 870646)

Please remember: Times in *italics* are for connections to and from Arbroath and Friockheim on Strathtay Scottish Service 27