

BARROW HIGHWAYS ADVISORY SUB GROUP
Meeting date: 14 February 2020
From: Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure

BUS SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE IN BARROW-IN-FURNESS

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1** *This report is in response to a request from the Barrow Advisory Sub-group for information on bus service changes in Barrow, and also provision of bus shelters in the area*

2.0 STRATEGIC PLANNING AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1** *The Council Plan 2018-2023 has a vision of a Council that works with residents, businesses, communities and other organisations to deliver the best services possible within the available resources.*

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1** *That the Sub-Group note the content of this report*
- 3.2** *That Members of the Sub-Group note that if they require further specific information at any time, they can contact either the Scheduled Bus Services Officer or Bus Infrastructure Officer.*

4.0 BACKGROUND

Services

- 4.1** Most bus services in Barrow are provided on a commercial basis by Stagecoach, with the exception of the service 5, and some evening and Sunday services. This was also the case prior to the County Council's 2014 decision to cease financial support for bus services, as part of the need to find significant budget savings.
- 4.2** The Barrow town network has been stable for a number of years, with no changes to routes or timetables. A stable network is normally positive, appreciated by bus users who dislike regular changes to their network

- 4.3 The dates of the most recent changes to the town bus services routes in Barrow are listed below:-

		Last Change
1	Biggar Bank – Hawcoat	July 2018
2	South Walney – Town Centre	September 2014
3	Ormsgill – Newbarns	October 2018
4	Roose - Asda	September 2016
5	North Scale – Town centre	October 2014

- 4.4 A number of other services run to/from Barrow

6: Barrow-Dalton–Ulverston

6: Barrow–Newby Bridge-Windermere

11: Barrow–Roa Island–Ulverston

X6: Barrow–Ulverston–Grange-over-Sands–Kendal

X7: Kirkby-in-Furness–Askam–Barrow (Wednesday only)

There are also a number of registered school bus services in Barrow.

- 4.5 When any operator decides they wish to change their timetable or route, they have to give a minimum of six weeks' notice to the Traffic Commissioners Office, who hold route registrations. There is no requirement to consult, or right of objection to proposals.
- 4.6 As Highway Authority, the County Council has to be informed prior to a registration being submitted, to allow it to consider replacement of any withdrawn journeys (although in Cumbria no budget currently exists for this) and to amend publicity.
- 4.7 The Council's Transport Services team are in regular contact with operators and have quarterly meetings with Stagecoach, but as changes are commercial decisions, they are rarely consulted on proposals, and cannot release information until the service has been registered with the Traffic Commissioner.
- 4.8 Once a registration is submitted, if there is a significant change to the service provided, details will normally be sent by the Scheduled Bus Services Officer to Parish Councils and local County Council Members.

Bus Shelters

- 4.9 The County Council does not own bus shelters, which in Cumbria are normally provided and maintained by Borough/District/Town/Parish Councils. In Barrow a number of shelters are owned and maintained by the Borough Council, but there are also a large number of shelters provided by advertising company ClearChannel, in return for approval to sell adverting space, initially under an agreement with the Borough Council, and now with the County Council. A list of shelters can be found in appendix A.

- 4.10 Changes to the market for advertising, mean it is very unlikely that ClearChannel would wish to add extra shelters to their current agreement, as costs of initial provision and long term cleaning and maintenance have to be covered by revenue generated by advertising.
- 4.11 The Borough Council are currently not funding new shelters, but will consider taking responsibility of shelters if funded from elsewhere, and agreed prior to installation. They continued to maintain their existing shelters.
- 4.12 If funding was available, and the Borough Council was willing to take on responsibility, the suitability of the location of any new shelter would be subject to approval by Highways Officers. If this was approved there will then be consultation with any nearby householders. There are often objections to locations due to links to night time antisocial behaviour.
- 4.13 If there was a proposal for a new shelter, this needs to be referred to the Council's Bus Infrastructure Officer, who will follow the agreed procedure regarding the suitability of the site.

Vehicles

- 4.14 The age of the bus fleet in Barrow will be a commercial decision for the operators who run the services.
- 4.15 When their fleet needs renewing Stagecoach-in-Cumbria and North Lancashire (the main provider) bid to their UK Board for replacement vehicles. Success of these bids will depend on the business case put forward for the area, against those in other areas of the Country, also bidding for improved vehicles.

5.0 OPTIONS

- 5.1 This report is for information only and there are no options to consider

6.0 RESOURCE AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct resource implications arising from the recommendation to note this report.

7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no direct legal implications to this report, as it is to note only.

8.0 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The provision of bus services in Cumbria is now 100% commercially provided with no funding available from the County Council for services which do not cover their operating costs.
- 8.2 The Council does however have a Scheduled Bus Services team who work with operators and can take up issues on the public's behalf. They also deal with publicity at bus stops and bus stop infrastructure.

Angela Jones
Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure

4 February 2020

APPENDICES

A: List of Bus Shelters in Barrow

Electoral Division: All Barrow Divisions

Executive Decision

	No
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Key Decision

	No
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If a Key Decision, is the proposal published in the current Forward Plan?

		N/A
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Is the decision exempt from call-in on grounds of urgency?

	No
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If exempt from call-in, has the agreement of the Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee been sought or obtained?

		N/A
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Has this matter been considered by Overview and Scrutiny?
If so, give details below.

	No
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Has an environmental or sustainability impact assessment been undertaken?

	No	
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Has an equality impact assessment been undertaken?

	No	
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PREVIOUS RELEVANT COUNCIL OR EXECUTIVE DECISIONS *[including Local Committees]*

No previous relevant decisions.

CONSIDERATION BY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

Not considered by Overview and Scrutiny.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix A: List of Bus Shelters in Barrow

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