

Decision Recording Form

Title	Bus Service 8 – Subsidy of 23:00 journey	Decision Maker	Planning & Development Operations Manager
Date of decision	5 th January 2018	Source of authority	Constitution, Part 3, section 5, paragraph 11.10, Highway & Transport sub-section, sub-paragraph (b).
Date of Publication			

Background and Reason for decision

Ipswich Buses Ltd have recently informed the Council of a number of changes to their commercially operated bus services, which will take effect from 18th February 2018. This includes the withdrawal of the last journey of the day, Monday to Saturday, at 23:00 on Service 8, which serves the Whitehouse area of Ipswich via Bramford Road.

The Council has decided to fund the continuation of this service for a 4 ½ year period. The cost for this is £4,118 per annum and will be arranged directly with the operator of the service, Ipswich Buses Ltd, via a service subsidy agreement made under the provisions of the Transport Act 1985 and The Service Subsidy Agreements (Tendering) (England) Regulations 2002 (both as amended).

The main alternative option would be not to subsidise the journey in question. Whilst there is a financial cost to the Council of subsidising bus services which has to be taken into account, in this case the Council's policies on encouraging the use of sustainable transport including ensuring the continuity of service provision are considered to justify the subsidy of the specific service. The service subsidy agreement will include a 3 month break clause so that, if circumstances change, the Council is not obligated to provide the level of subsidy for the entire period.

The Portfolio Holder for Transport & Environment and the Leader of the Council have been consulted on this matter. Suffolk County Council have also been consulted on the changes.

The Council has also decided to enter into other Service Subsidy Agreements on other services but these are covered by separate officer decision forms.

DECISION: In accordance with the Transport Act 1985 and The Service Subsidy Agreements (Tendering) (England) Regulations 2002 (both as amended), to enter into a service subsidy agreement with Ipswich Buses Ltd to provide the bus service referred to in this form from 18th February 2018 to 25th September 2022 inclusive but subject to the Council being able to withdraw from the agreement with 3 months notice.

Conflict of interest	N/A	Relevant Portfolio(s)	Environment & Transport
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ALL WARDS									
NW		NE		CENTRAL		SW		SE	
Castle Hill		Bixley		Alexandra		Bridge		Gainsborough	
Whitton		Rushmere		St Margaret's		Gipping		Holywells	
Whitehouse	Y	St John's		Westgate	Y	Sprites		Priory Heath	
						Stoke Park			

Once complete the Decision Maker must send this form and any background documentation for publication to Monitoring.officer@ipswich.gov.uk

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