

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Planning and Development Policy Development and Review Panel

Date **03 March 2015**

Report of: **Director of Planning and Development**

Subject: **PUBLIC TRANSPORT REVIEW: CONCLUSIONS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS [FINAL REPORT]**

SUMMARY

This report presents a summary of the main findings and conclusions from the work carried out on the Policy Development and Review (PDR) Panel's Public Transport Review, under the guidance of the Members' Working Group. The main focus of the Review has been to examine existing bus service provision in the Borough and identify possible actions for working more effectively with the organisations delivering these services, in order to better meet the needs of the local communities through the Borough Council's community leadership role.

RECOMMENDATION

That the PDR Panel:

- Notes the contents of the Final Report relating to the findings and conclusions from the Public Transport Review.
- Recommends to the Executive that the Council enters into an agreement with First Bus setting out a Protocol for community involvement in the provision of local bus services.
- Recommends to the Executive that Community Action Fareham be invited to submit a part-funded application and business case to the Council for a proposal to support their interest in operating a Sunday bus service between Fareham Town Centre and the Highlands area, replacing a similar service recently withdrawn by Hampshire County Council and to be run as a trial over a 3-month period.
- Recommends to the Executive that Officers be asked to undertake a feasibility study for a possible on-going programme of installation of new and/or re-located bus shelters and associated bus stop infrastructure, and for estimating the associated capital costs; these measures would assist in influencing mode choice by enhancing the quality of the public transport offer.

INTRODUCTION

1. This report presents the principal findings and outcomes from the work carried out on the Public Transport Review under the guidance of the Working Group on behalf of the PDR Panel. The appointed members of the Working Group were Cllr A. Mandry (Chairman), Cllr P. Davies and Cllr G. Fazackarley.
2. The main objectives of the Public Transport Review were, firstly, to define and clarify the current provision of bus services in the Borough, and secondly to identify possible actions for working more effectively with the organisations delivering these services to better meet the needs of the local communities through the Borough Council's community leadership role.
3. The work of the Review has focussed particularly on bus and bus rapid transit (BRT) services as the main public transport mode in the Borough. However, it is recognised that other forms of public transport – including community bus, rail and taxi services, with ferry services also providing connections to Portsmouth and Isle of Wight – together with the efficient interchange between modes each play a key role as part of an integrated transport solution that should be easily accessible to all travellers.
4. In total, six Working Group Meetings have taken place during the period from August 2014, when work on the Review commenced, to February 2015. These have provided a steer for the work and enabled discussion on the initial findings of the Review, with representatives of First Bus, Community Action Fareham and Hampshire County Council's Passenger Transport Group accepting invitations to attend the Meetings.
5. Preliminary findings emanating from the work of the Review were contained in the Interim Report "Public Transport Review – Findings (Interim Report)" and presented to the PDR Panel on 4 November 2014.
6. In undertaking this work it is recognised that the Borough Council has an important subsidiary role in influencing outcomes of initiatives from Hampshire County Council, who as Transport Authority hold the overall responsibility to secure the provision of appropriate services to meet public transport requirements.
7. Initial tasks of the Review involved establishing a baseline of bus services in the Borough and the effects of planned changes following a review undertaken by Hampshire County Council during the Spring of 2014. The results are summarised in the next section of this Report.
8. Background activities informing the work of the Review and detailed in the Interim Report comprised the following:
 - An analysis of 2011 National Census data to assist in identifying community needs for bus services in the Borough.
 - An assessment of other community bus services in order to understand how other local authorities and communities were responding to changes in bus provision.
9. The following sections of the Report outline the further work undertaken to consider the need for new bus services and procurement of associated infrastructure in the

Borough, and how existing processes for involving the Council and local community in proposed service changes can be improved through more effective communication.

1. SCHEDULED AND PRIVATE CONTRACTED BUS SERVICES

Scheduled Services

10. The existing network of bus routes in Fareham and Gosport provides connections to and from the Town Centre, local centres and other major destinations including Fareham Railway Station. Frequency of service, however, is a key determinant of quality as perceived by customers. This varies substantially across different routes - at one end of the scale the E1/E2 Eclipse BRT routes operate with a frequent service between 0530 and 2400 hours Monday to Saturday, and 0600 and 2330 on Sundays and Bank Holidays, whilst at the other extreme there is at best a two-hourly service on Routes 11 and F3.
11. The descriptions and current route frequencies of bus services in Fareham and Gosport are reproduced in Appendix 1 of this report.
12. In July 2014, First Bus revised the timetables of some services, with some routing and frequency changes, and announced that the F2 and F3 services would be reviewed after 6 months and may not continue beyond the required 56-day notice period should the financial performance prove to be unsatisfactory.
13. Between March and May 2014 Hampshire County Council (HCC) carried out a public consultation on the operation of subsidised bus routes and community transport services in Fareham and Gosport as part of a County-wide initiative to reduce costs, with the option of withdrawal of a number of services that are not judged to represent good value for money. The HCC Review of Subsidised Bus and Community Transport Services included seven subsidised bus services considered for partial or complete withdrawal should the recommendations be approved.
14. Fareham Borough Council duly submitted a response to the HCC consultation taking account of all comments received by Local Members and Borough residents. In summary these were as follows:
 - No bus service identified as 'at risk' in the HCC Review should be withdrawn without appropriate consideration of the potential impacts in a holistic cross-sector approach involving transport, planning, economic and welfare programmes.
 - There is a need for better targeting of public transport funding and policy in order to address transport-related community impacts of service withdrawal such as social isolation.
 - Further cuts affecting the availability and affordability of bus services in the Borough would not be consistent with the objectives of The Council's local planning policy framework.
15. Recommendations from the HCC Review were considered at the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment (EMETE) Decision Day Meeting on 27 October 2014. The associated Decision Report setting out the proposals was available on HCC's website (Reference: 6029), and recommendations for changes in bus services in Fareham and Gosport are presented in Appendix 2 of this report.

16. A summary of results from the HCC Passenger Transport Review 2014 consultation responses has also been published on the HCC website. Key statistics relating to the use of bus services in Hampshire include the following:

- Travelling to/from shops for essential shopping is the most common journey purpose (20% of respondents); only 6% use the bus to travel to/from work.
- 21% of respondents use the bus either every day or on most days of the week.
- 69% of respondents do not use subsidised services after 7pm; 64% do not use subsidised Sunday services.
- 21% of respondents said they have no alternative mode to travel other than using the bus.
- The top priority for funding identified by the highest number of respondents (23%) was the retention of the current days that a service operates (ie. Monday-Friday).

Privately-Contracted Services

17. Alongside scheduled bus services there are a number of privately-contracted services operated by business organisations, educational establishments and other institutions in the Borough that have been procured in order to provide a public transport alternative for site access. Due to the dedicated nature of these routes they tend not to fully consider their potential integration with scheduled bus routes. Contractual arrangements have meant that only in selected cases has there been agreement to make these private services available to fare-paying passengers.

18. Examples of privately-contracted services currently operating in the Borough include the following:

- ASDA Fareham Newgate Lane: Free Shopper Buses (Fareham Bus Station, Stubbington Village, Lee-on-the-Solent), Mondays to Fridays;
- Whiteley Shopping Centre: Free Bus Service operating Monday to Friday lunchtime periods;
- CEMAST Daytime Shuttle, student bus service linking to the BRT at Fort Brockhurst, Gosport;
- CEMAST Morning and Evening Bus Services student service between the College campus, Fareham Bus and Rail Stations, and Gosport.

19. Overall and taking account of both scheduled and privately-contracted services, there is a lack of coherency and uniformity in bus service provision across the Borough, with the main corridors served relatively well but infrequent services on intermediate routes elsewhere, and with Fareham Town Centre acting as the main transport hub. Each privately-contracted route serves a specific purpose and is not equivalent to a conventional scheduled service available to the general public.

20. From a bus passenger perspective, periodic changes in services by operators and publicity associated with possible further service reductions may not be conducive to the message that the bus represents a sustainable long-term alternative travel choice.

2. MEETINGS WITH BUS OPERATORS

21. To assist with the Review, representatives of transport providers operating scheduled bus services and community transport in the Fareham area accepted invitations to attend meetings of the Working Group.

First Bus

22. First Bus is the principal bus operator for the Fareham and Gosport area, operating services that are required to cover running costs. The financial performance of services is reviewed on a regular basis, as are opportunities for new routes linked to developments within the Borough.

23. The Company is prepared to run a service if deemed viable and provided that customers make use of the service. Alternatively, services will be removed if they are not used, as under the current legislation First Bus is unable to cross-subsidise with more profitable routes. Due to the reimbursement rates for concessionary passes, their extensive use by passengers may result in services not covering running costs by this means alone.

24. First Bus does not currently believe that there are additional bus services in the Borough that could be run on a commercial basis. However, First continues to review its service levels and when opportunities become available to provide new services or enhance existing ones they will be considered.

25. Of interest to the Borough Council is the fact that First arrange Customer Panel meetings in Fareham on a quarterly basis to elicit views on local bus services and provide information on forthcoming changes. Panel members are selected as representative of other customers who use specific services, and meeting minutes are published on First's website www.firstgroup.com/ukbus/hampshire/help_contact/customer_panel

26. Previous membership of the Customer Panel included Officer representation from both Hampshire County Council and Portsmouth City Council, with Fareham Borough Council represented informally by Cllr Peter Davies.

27. Independent of the First Bus Customer Panel is the Fareham & Gosport Passenger Transport Forum run by Hampshire County Council and attended by Cllr Davies and the Principal Transport Planner on behalf of Fareham Borough Council.

Community Action Fareham

28. Community Action Fareham currently operates 3 school contracts and has confirmed interest in running scheduled community bus services in order to increase the utilisation of vehicle fleets and assist in reducing costs. They are proposing to combine operations with their counterparts in Gosport, thereby increasing scalability.

29. They have prepared business cases for various service options which have highlighted the potential financial risks to the organisation, and therefore to date have not committed to setting up any new route. It is understood that attempts at partnering with First Bus to share marketing and other costs have so far proved to be unsuccessful.

3. CONSIDERATION OF THE NEED FOR BUS SERVICES

30. In early January 2015 a request was issued to all local Councillors inviting suggestions

on the need for bus services in the Borough. This elicited a number of responses from Councillors which will be taken forward by Officers for consideration through discussion with bus operators and other interested parties.

31. The particular points raised in Councillor responses are presented in Appendix 3 of this Report and are summarised below together with the actions being taken by Officers:

- The absence of late evening bus services in Locks Heath and attendant concerns over personal security for work-to-home journeys - the matter will be referred to First Bus for consideration.
- A need for direct bus service connections to Fareham Community Hospital in the Western Wards to avoid a 300-400 metre walk from the nearest bus stop – the matter will be referred to First Bus and the local Health Trust for consideration.
- Improved bus services in the Portchester area to supplement existing routes and frequencies – the matter will be referred to First Bus for consideration and an assessment made of the effectiveness of the alternative Linden Lea Taxishare service.
- A Sunday service on the F1/F2 route between Fareham Town Centre and the Highlands area, replacing an equivalent service operated by First Bus and withdrawn in early January 2015 by Hampshire County Council – consideration will be given as to how this proposition may be brought forward and the necessary funding secured.

32. Notwithstanding the genuine concerns expressed by Councillors in relation to service level provision and the consequential impact on individual passengers and local communities, it should be noted that without subsidy or grant funding it is not considered likely that new services designed to meet these needs will be promoted by existing bus operators as financially viable.

33. Community Action Fareham has expressed interest in operating a Sunday service between Fareham Town Centre and Highlands, which would broadly complement the operation of existing bus contracts by the organisation. Acknowledging that a service was unlikely to be economic based solely on fare revenue collection, it has been concluded that Community Action Fareham could prepare a part-funded application setting out the costs of operating the service and identifying the level of contributory funding required to offset the predicted shortfall, should the proposal be approved. It was also concluded that if the service were run for an initial 3-month period then this would allow an evaluation of the true demand for this service to be undertaken without major financial commitment.

4. A PROTOCOL FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

34. It was concluded from the meeting with First Bus referred to above that there would be benefit in Fareham Borough Council formalising the process of consulting residents and other interested parties - either through Customer Panels or by other means - on the need for new or improved bus services, with the aim of agreeing proposed service changes with operators for implementation.

35. One method of achieving this would be to define a Protocol comprising a set of principles of community involvement as a formal procedure for the effective

communication of proposed changes to local bus services. Possible signatories include the relevant local authorities, local bus service providers in the Fareham and Gosport area, and developers with significant proposals affecting local communities within the Borough.

36. The General Manager of First Bus has confirmed to Fareham Borough Council their willingness to sign a Protocol and agreed a form of words for the document which is reproduced as Appendix 4 to this Report. This reflects the actions identified to ensure that the Council Members and Officers are better informed of planned changes to bus services and have the opportunity to influence final decisions whenever possible.

37. The particular measures referred to in the Protocol that have been agreed with First Bus are as follows:

- Appointment of a local District Member to the First Bus Customer Panel for the Fareham area.
- Updating Members and Officers of the outcomes of Customer Panel meetings.
- Notifying the Principal Transport Planner of changes to bus services in accordance with the required notice periods.
- Informing the Borough Council of arrangements for Roadshows taking place in Fareham Town Centre.

38. Subject to agreement by the parties concerned, it is envisaged that Hampshire County Council and other operators of local scheduled services could become co-signatories of the Protocol in the future.

5. BUS SHELTERS AND RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE

39. Bus stop facilities are an important component of the total public transport offer across the Borough, and require appropriate levels of investment for upgrading and maintaining existing street furniture.

40. Responsibilities are currently split between Hampshire County Council for the provision of bus stops and Fareham Borough Council for the provision of bus shelters. On Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) routes, Hampshire County Council is responsible for all infrastructure including bus shelters.

41. In parallel with the submission of this Report, a forthcoming report entitled "Bus Shelter Maintenance Contract Renewal" has been prepared by Council Officers to the Streetscene Policy Development and Review Panel, advising of proposals for the renewal of the existing contract for these services that is due to expire in March 2016.

42. In addition to repair and maintenance activities, there is a need to consider the procurement of new or re-located bus shelters at suitable locations in the Borough due to the continuous review and modification to route and service patterns by bus operators. As there is currently no funding available for this procurement, a possible way forward to achieving this would be for the Executive to ask Officers to undertake a feasibility study for a possible on-going programme of installation of new and/or re-located bus shelters and associated bus stop infrastructure, and to estimate an appropriate annual capital budget over a 10-year period.

43. The report from this study would then need to be submitted to the Executive for consideration.
44. It is also necessary to protect bus stops from parking by other vehicles which can result in buses being unable to reach the stops and purpose-built infrastructure for low-floor vehicles where this is provided. Where appropriate the Borough Council will consider the introduction of a 'bus stop clearway', which can be implemented and enforced without a traffic regulation order to address the problem.
45. In addition to civil engineering infrastructure improvements, there are a number of complementary technological developments aimed at improving the accessibility and affordability of public transport in Fareham. These include the *SolentGo* smart ticketing initiative, developed by a consortium of public transport operating companies in the Solent area, and RNIB *React* tags, promoted by Hampshire County Council, enabling blind or partially-sighted passenger to use the *Eclipse* bus stops. The Borough Council is assisting in disseminating this information to the appropriate user groups.

6. MAJOR TRANSPORT SCHEMES PROGRAMME

46. Fareham Borough Council is providing assistance to Hampshire County Council on delivery of the 'Improving Access to Fareham and Gosport' transport infrastructure programme, with Officers supporting County officers on both design and communications aspects associated with major road improvements in Fareham.
47. With regard to detailed engineering design matters, Borough Council Officers are providing advice on local requirements as part of project development, in particular the location of bus stops, interchange facilities and provision of new bus shelters.
48. The Council is also working to ensure that Local and County Members are fully informed of proposals and have the opportunity to comment on design proposals prior to finalisation and issue of details to the general public, thereby facilitating support for the incorporation of public transport measures in new highway schemes.
49. Significant resources have also been provided by Fareham Borough Council on behalf of Hampshire County Council to create a 'drive-through' visual simulation of the new road layout for the Newgate Lane North improvement scheme. The resulting video is accessible via the Council's Website and has proved exceptionally popular, with over 8,000 'hits', and the County Council has stated its intention to adopt this exercise as a standard approach for communicating similar proposals to members of the public.

RISK ASSESSMENT

50. There are no significant risk considerations in relation to this report.

CONCLUSIONS

51. The lack of coherency in the provision of bus services across the Borough, combined with sensitivity around Hampshire County Council's regular reviews of subsidised bus services and the tendency for First Bus to change services on a regular basis, make it difficult for passengers to keep up-to-date with current timetables and gain reassurance that bus represents a viable long-term choice of travel mode for journeys in Fareham.
52. It is therefore considered that there would be benefit in Fareham Borough Council formalising the process of communicating plans and proposals relating to new bus

services or changes to existing routes, and that one method of achieving this would be to produce a Protocol comprising a set of principles of community involvement as a formal procedure associated with the implementation of these proposals.

53. First Bus has confirmed their agreement to a signed version of the Protocol document, and it is hoped that Hampshire County Council and possibly other local bus operators could also sign in the future.
54. Although preliminary findings contained in the Interim Report indicated that there were no significant gaps in the provision of bus services in the Borough on the main arterial routes, specific concerns on the lack of services have been expressed by local Members, and Officers intend to maintain a dialogue with First Bus and other interested parties with the objective of identifying possible solutions.
55. Community Action Fareham has expressed an interest in operating a service on a trial basis between Fareham Town Centre and the Highlands area, and it considered that, as a way forward, a part-funded application and business case for this proposal could be requested and submitted to the Council Executive.
56. The Borough Council is currently reviewing options for procurement of maintenance and repair services for the existing stock of bus shelters in the Borough. In addition, there is a need to consider how new bus shelters should be procured in the future and it is considered that Officers could be requested to undertake an assessment of the feasibility of defining a long-term programme for the installation of new or re-located shelters.

Background Papers: None

Reference Papers: Report to Planning and Development PDR Review Panel “Public Transport Review – Findings (Interim Report)”, 4 November 2014

APPENDIX 1 – Existing Bus Services in Fareham and Gosport

APPENDIX 2 – Hampshire County Council Changes to Bus Services in Fareham and Gosport following the 27 October 2014 Decision Day Meeting

APPENDIX 3 - Members' PDR Panel Public Transport Review – Request to All Councillors for Suggestions on the Need for Bus Services

APPENDIX 4 – Protocol for Community Involvement in Provision of Local Bus Services

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact the Principal Transport Planner, Robert Burton. (Ext 2373)

APPENDIX 1 – EXISTING BUS SERVICES IN FAREHAM AND GOSPORT

Route Descriptions and Frequencies

Route No.	Operator	Route Description	Mon-Sat Daytime	Mon-Sat Evenings	Sunday & Bank Holiday	Last Bus Dep FBS*
Eclipse E1	First	Fareham-Rail Station-Busway-Brockhurst-Elson-Gosport	12 mins	30 mins	20 mins	23.31
Eclipse E2	First	Fareham-Rail Station-Busway-Brockhurst-Ann's Hill Road-Gosport	12 mins	30 mins	20 mins	22.55
F1	First	Fareham-Blackbrook Road-Highlands (Shops)-Thorni Avenue	30 mins	No service	No service	18.35
F2	First	Fareham-Maylings Farm-Frosthole Crescent-Highlands (Nashe Way)	hourly	No service	No service	17.20
F3	First	Fareham-Dore Avenue-Portchester Precinct	3 journeys	No service	No service	14.24
3	First	Fareham-Portchester-QA Hospital-Cosham-North End-Portsmouth	10 mins	30 mins	20 mins	23.00
X4	First	Portsmouth-M275-Portchester-Fareham-Locks Heath-Lowford-Southampton	30 mins	(variable)	(variable)	19.28
X5	First	Gosport-Stokes Bay-Lee-on-the-Solent-Stubbington-Fareham-Locks Heath-Warsash-Lowford-Southampton	30 mins	(variable)	hourly	20.31
9/9A	First	Fareham-Bridgemary-Rowner-Gosport	15 mins	(variable)	30 mins	19.05
10	First	Fareham-Bridgemary-Brockhurst-Gosport	hourly	No service	No service	15.45
11	First	Fareham-Fleetlands-Brockhurst-Gosport-Alverstoke	2-hourly	No service	No service	17.35
20	First	Fareham-Highlands-Funtley-Knowle-Wickham	70 mins	No service	No service	18.45
21	First	Fareham-ASDA-Stubbington-Hill Head/Lee-on-the-Solent	(variable)	No service	No service	18.30
X23	Xelabus	Locks Heath-Warsash-Lowford-Windhover (Tesco) (Tuesdays & Thursdays only)	1 journey	No service	No service	n/a
28/28A	First	Fareham-Highlands(28) or West End(28A)-Park Gate-Whiteley	8 journeys	No service	No service	18.05
69	Stagecoach	Fareham-Wickham-Bishop's Waltham-Fair Oak-Winchester	hourly	No service	No service	18.45

Sources: Hampshire County Council Fareham & Gosport Bus Map & Guide (27 July 2014) and current service timetables

*NOTE: Last bus departure time from Fareham Bus Station (FBS)

APPENDIX 2 – HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CHANGES TO BUS SERVICES IN FAREHAM & GOSPORT FOLLOWING THE 27 OCTOBER 2014 DECISION DAY REPORT

A. Subsidised Local Bus Services in Fareham & Gosport

- **Bus Service number F1/F2, Fareham – Highlands** – Withdrawal of funding for the Sunday service in line with Sunday services across the County. Weekday services are provided commercially.
- **Bus Service number 11, Fareham – Gosport – Alverstoke** – Withdrawal of the Saturday service (average use Monday to Saturday recorded as 13 passengers per journey total for Alverstoke-Gosport and Gosport-Fareham).
NOTE: Subsequent to the Decision, the Saturday service has been re-instated.
- **Bus Service number 20, Fareham – Knowle – Wickham** - The schooldays only timetable has been revised as Knowle students now travel via dedicated school transport.
- **Bus Service number 21, Fareham – Hill Head** - A replacement for a withdrawn commercial service was introduced in January 2014 on a trial basis. This service is retained with a revised route and timetable, running more frequently to Hill Head but no longer serving Lee-on-the-Solent as residents there can use the X5 service to access shopping in Fareham or Gosport, as well as the Asda shopper bus as journeys to Asda accounted for most journeys surveyed on that section of route. The service no longer runs on Saturday afternoons as fewer passengers use the service.
- **Bus Service number 26, Fareham – Botley – Hedge End** - This service has been combined with the number 28 service. The Park Gate to Hedge End section of the route has been withdrawn due to low passenger numbers (less than 2 passengers per journey on average), with an alternative Taxi-share service offered to BurrIDGE residents as other communities have public transport available. Further details are available on Hampshire County Council's website www.hants.gov.uk/taxishares
- **Bus Service number 28, Fareham – Whiteley – Locks Heath – Warsash** – This service has been combined with the number 26 service. The Locks Heath to Warsash section of the route has been withdrawn as passengers use the faster and more frequent X4 and X5 services. Newtown residents are provided with a Taxi-share.

B. Hampshire Concessionary Travel Scheme 2015/16

- The enhancements to the statutory scheme provided for Hampshire residents eligible for a disabled person's pass have been maintained.
- Travel times for holders of older person's passes have come into line with the statutory scheme, with the 0900 to 0930 extension on Monday to Friday discontinued except on those routes where there is currently a departure between 0900 and 0929 and no further departure until after 1031.
- These departures have been listed and passes allowed from 0900 on those specific journeys, as has been done elsewhere.

APPENDIX 3 – MEMBERS’ PDR PANEL PUBLIC TRANSPORT REVIEW – REQUEST TO ALL COUNCILLORS FOR SUGGESTIONS ON THE NEED FOR BUS SERVICES

Councillor	Response	Provisional Officer Comments
Cllr Ms Pankhurst	<p>So far as my Ward is concerned, I have had various comments regarding the reduction in services along Hunt’s Pond Road – am I correct in believing that the Abshot Road service is continuing?</p> <p>Can I also say that many of my fellow partners from Titchfield Common who also work at Waitrose Locks Heath have commented that there are no late bus services – this usually means that they have to walk home or pay for taxis. This is of concern to me because:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Walking home at night has its associated security issues; and 2. The extra expense of taxi fares is not always affordable. 	<p>The X4 service currently operates down Abshot Road. However, FBC Officers will liaise with HCC on the continuation of a bus service along Abshot Road</p> <p>Evening bus services in this area are currently deemed not viable by First and as a result not operating. Should a sufficient demand arise, FBC can notify First at their Customer Panels.</p>
Cllr Price	<p>As far as Portchester is concerned there is an urgent need to provide a bus service linking Portchester Precinct to Fareham and Portsmouth via Linden Lea and Dore Avenue on the Hill Slopes. A regular bus service throughout the day and evening is needed on the Portchester Hill Slopes of Dore Avenue and Linden Lea on the left hand side of Hill Road also a service is needed on the right hand side of Hill Road through Leith Avenue.</p> <p>I hope that these routes can be included in any consultation.</p>	<p>An infrequent service (F3) already exists operating from Fareham to Portchester Precincts via North Portchester. Whilst a much more frequent service (3) operates from Fareham to Gunwharf through Portchester Precinct, at a 10 minute intervals. This service greatly services Southern Portchester (White Hart Lane).</p> <p>The 3 service that operates to Gunwharf passes along Portsview Avenue, and it is roughly 100-200 metre walk on an incline to Leith Avenue.</p> <p>The Linden Lea X57 Taxishare service, operating on selected weekdays only, provides a connection for travel from Linden Lea, Hill View Road and Leith Avenue to Fareham Town Centre and Portchester Precinct.</p>
Cllr Ford	Here in the Western Wards, we are served by the Fareham	HCC has advised that there is insufficient S106 Funding from the Coldeast development to put

	<p>Community Hospital that is not served by any direct bus service. The nearest a bus gets to the hospital is the First Bus 4A that stops at the Brook Lane / A27 junction on it's route between the Locks Heath Centre and Southampton. This requires a 300-400 metre walk from the bus stop to the hospital. The provision of a direct service is something that is frequently top of residents local requirements. There are 2 options; either the current (excellent) X5 half hourly Fareham / Locks Heath / Warsash / Sarisbury service has it's alternative bus (hourly) diverted down Brook Lane past the hospital rather than down Barnes Lane (meeting at the junction of Barnes Lane and the A27); this to be effective both to and from Fareham. The alternative is the provision of a bus that sweeps Locks Heath, Warsash, Park Gate and Sarisbury on a circular route taking in the Community hospital. To be effective, this service would need to be at least 2 hourly.</p> <p>The doubt as to the viability of such a service, given the low use of the hospital could be provided on a long'ish trial basis on a use-it-or-lose-it basis!</p>	<p>towards a subsidised bus service.</p> <p>FBC Officers will liaise with the local Health Trust to establish the long term plans for the Community Hospital, providing a better picture of whether FBC can negotiate with HCC and First on bus service provision to the hospital.</p> <p>The opening of the Western Wards Leisure Centre may also provide an opportunity to establish a bus service for this area and FBC Officers will review the current proposals for accessing the Centre by alternative transport modes.</p>
Cllr Davies	A Sunday service on F1/F2, but it is against HCC policy to subsidise Sunday services!	Sunday Services on the F1/F2 have been withdrawn as it was deemed unviable to run at present.
Cllr Mrs Trott	Concerns regarding withdrawal of bus services to ONS Segensworth (Route 28/28A)	The peak period service on Route 28/28A has been reinstated by HCC.

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Planning and Development Policy Development and Review (PDR) Panel Public Transport Review 2014/15

Protocol for Community Involvement in Provision of Local Bus Services – Agreement between Fareham Borough Council and First Bus

In signing up to this Protocol, Fareham Borough Council agrees to:

- Provide support and leadership in communicating with interested parties and help in identifying a full range of community views.
- Ensure that elected Members are fully informed and up-to-date on proposals to introduce service changes.
- Participate in confirming or bringing forward proposals that have received the support of other interested parties.
- Assist in publicising details of public transport initiatives including new technology applications (for example, smart ticketing, RNIB React tags)

In signing up to this Protocol, First Bus agrees to:

- Facilitate the formal appointment of a Local Member, or alternate Council representative, in order to participate in future First Bus Customer Panel meetings for the Fareham area.
- Provide a timely update of proposals to change or introduce new bus services to a nominated group of Council Members and Officers as soon as possible following each Customer Panel meeting.
- Ensure that Fareham Borough Council's Principal Transport Planner is informed by email from First Bus' Network Planner of all planned changes to local bus services at the earliest opportunity (typically with 56 days' notice).
- Inform Fareham Borough Council in good time of the arrangements for 6-monthly Roadshows in Fareham Town Centre that provide a forum for the public to share ideas and comments on local bus services.