



<u>Committee and Date</u> Whitchurch and Prees Local Joint Committee  2 December 2009  7.00 pm
--

<u>Item</u>  <b>9</b>
-----------------------------

## **HIGH COST SERVICE REVIEW: FOR INFORMATION**

**Responsible Officer** Jonathan Hayes  
Email: Jon.Hayes@shropshire.gov.uk

Telephone: 01743 255433

Shropshire Council is keen to enhance and improve local bus services for which it provides financial support. However, we also have to ensure that this represents good value for money for the Council and that we have funding available to support these services.

The Council's passenger transport budget is currently under considerable pressure because of the rising costs of providing transport and the current financial climate. In order to address this and attempt to achieve a balanced budget a number of cost saving measures have been identified.

One such measure is the consideration of subsidised bus services which have a relatively high cost compared to the number of passengers carried. Through the monitoring of contracts Shropshire Council has identified services which have a subsidy of over £4 per passenger trip.

These are as follows;

- **Service 113**; Telford to Bridgnorth; Monday to Friday 0720 departure from Bridgnorth.
- **Service 519**; Newport to Shrewsbury; Saturday 1755 departure from Shrewsbury.
- **Service 71a**; Oswestry to Four Crosses; Monday to Friday 1755 departure from Oswestry bus station and Saturday and School Holidays 0805 departure from Four Crosses.
- **Service 323**; Market Drayton to Telford; Monday to Friday service.
- **Service 221**; Market Drayton to Whitchurch; Friday only.

Consideration is currently being given to no longer subsidising these services. However, before making a final decision Shropshire Council are currently consulting with passengers to ensure a balanced view is put forward.

The Whitchurch and Prees LJC are asked to consider the above and particularly service 221 which operates in the area covered by this LJC. Service 221 operates between Market Drayton and Whitchurch on a Friday only. The full timetable is given below;

<u>Outbound</u>		<u>Inbound</u>	
Market Drayton, Bus Station	0840	Whitchurch, Bus Station	1140
Little Drayton, Longford Turn	0844	Prees Heath, Cherry Tree	1145
Ternhill, Roundabout	0847	Prees, Lay-by	1153
Hodnet, Bear Inn	0855	Prees, Moreton Street	1155
Marchamley, Square	0858	Darliston	1159
Lower Heath, Cross Roads	0905	Fauls Green	1201
Fauls Green	0909	Lower Heath, Cross Roads	1205
Darliston	0911	Marchamley, Square	1212
Prees, Moreton St	0915	Hodnet, Bear Inn	1215
Prees, Lay-by	0917	Tern Hill, Roundabout	1223
Prees Heath, Raven Hotel	0925	Little Drayton, Longford Turn	1225
Whitchurch, Bus Station	0930	Market Drayton, Bus Station	1228

Service 221 is part of a wider contract which also includes service 323 between Market Drayton and Telford. When combined the forecast total contract cost for 2009 / 2010 is approximately £67,373 and is predicted to carry approximately 4872 passengers resulting in a cost per passenger trip of £13.83.

Alternative services from these villages and Hamlets include;

<b>Town / Village / Hamlet</b>	<b>Alternative Services</b>
Market Drayton	Service 64; Shrewsbury – Hanley Service 341 / 342; Market Drayton – Wellington ShropshireLink
Little Drayton	Service 64; Shrewsbury – Hanley Service 341 / 342; Market Drayton – Wellington ShropshireLink
Ternhill	Service 64; Shrewsbury – Hanley Service 341 / 342; Market Drayton – Wellington ShropshireLink
Hodnet	Service 64; Shrewsbury – Hanley Service 341 / 342; Market Drayton – Wellington ShropshireLink
Marchamley	ShropshireLink
Lower Heath	ShropshireLink
Fauls Green	ShropshireLink
Darliston	ShropshireLink
Prees	Service 511; Whitchurch – Shrewsbury
Prees Heath	Service 511; Whitchurch – Shrewsbury
Whitchurch	Service 511; Whitchurch – Shrewsbury Service 41; Whitchurch – Chester Service 72 / 73; Whitchurch – Nantwich Service 146; Whitchurch - Wrexham

A comprehensive review of ShropshireLink was presented to the Development Services Scrutiny Committee on 3 November 2009. Following this review it was recommended that the area bounded by Whitchurch, Market Drayton and Wem be amalgamated to provide four days of travel on Tuesday, Friday, Wednesday and Saturday. These days of operation will allow access to Market Drayton on a Wednesday and Whitchurch on a Friday to coincide with market days in these towns. This will provide a more comprehensive replacement service for the hamlets of Marchamley, Lower Heath, Fauls Green and Darliston which will be most affected by these proposals.

**Anyone wishing to comment on the future of these services should do so by 4 January 2010 using the following details;**

Passenger Transport Policy  
Development Services  
Shropshire Council  
FREEPOST SY 522  
SHREWSBURY  
SY2 6BR

Tel; 01743 255433

Email; [jon.hayes@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:jon.hayes@shropshire.gov.uk)