

**RUSHMOOR BOROUGH COUNCIL  
RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISION  
ROED 2226**



**Decision taken by individual Officer**

Hampshire County Council - Public consultation on proposed changes to supported passenger transport services and the Concessionary Travel Scheme

**DECISION MAKER** *(Name and designation)*

*Tim Mills, Head of Planning, Economy and Strategic Housing*

**DECISION AND THE REASON(S) FOR IT**

To respond to a public consultation from Hampshire County Council.

To express disappointment and provide detailed rationale for the importance of the services potentially affected by the proposed cuts to bus services and extra charges for disabled people to access Dial-a-Ride, Call & Go and Taxishare services.

The proposal was discussed at PPAB.

**DATE DECISION TAKEN**

27/7/22

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

None relevant. It would have been inappropriate not to respond to the consultation.

**ANY CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

*(conflict of interests of any executive member who is consulted by the officer which relates to the decision. A note of dispensation should be attached).*

**None.**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ in consultation with Adrian Newall Portfolio Holder

Please send completed form to Chris Todd



Your reference

Contact Vincent Maher

Our reference DTC/HCC/ buses

Telephone 01252 398733

Mr Andrew Wilson  
Public Transport Manager  
Hampshire County Council

Email [vincent.maher@rushmoor.gov.uk](mailto:vincent.maher@rushmoor.gov.uk)

Date 27 July 2022

Via email:

[passenger.transport.consultation@hants.gov.uk](mailto:passenger.transport.consultation@hants.gov.uk)

Dear Mr Wilson

## **Public consultation on proposed changes to supported passenger transport services and the Concessionary Travel Scheme**

Thank you for inviting Rushmoor Borough Council to comment on the proposals.

The Council's Policy and Projects Advisory Board considered the proposals at its meeting on 14 July 2022. The members and Portfolio Holder are extremely disappointed at the plans in light of the County Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency and the recent consultation on LTP4 and its emphasis on achieving carbon reduction through modal shift. It is very frustrating that potentially elements or the whole of these three bus services are considered in scope when there is an acknowledged need to reduce dependency on the private car. These aims are also reflected within the Transport for South East SIP which also seeks to improve cross county links.

It has not been made clear what levels of changes are proposed to the three local bus services (Routes 7, 9 and 41) the county supports (Proposal 1). A reduction in support for Bus Route 41 could in turn result in further cuts from Surrey County Council. The consultation does not analyse the role and importance of these services and understand how they contribute to a network of sustainable travel services.

Route 41 provides the key north south connection to Farnborough North Station, and Ash Vale/North Camp station from Aldershot. When the aim is to increase use of sustainable transport removing a key link to alternative rail routes in particular the line north to Reading is counterproductive and undermines the County's claimed strategy. It is also a vital link to Frimley Hospital. So, removing it will encourage access by car and impact those more deprived citizens who use buses potentially reducing access to health services.

Route 9 similarly provides a vital link to Voyager Health Centre and the same arguments apply. Many residents who use the Milestone surgery used to be able to walk to it until the relocation approximately three miles away. Maintaining public transport to the facility is therefore particularly important. It is recognised that there are limitations to the current service and these would appear to deprive the service of income opportunities. Rushmoor Borough Council would question whether a more creative approach to services could deliver a better service possibly at a reduced cost.

Route 7 quite apart from playing a key role in bringing residents from Hart into Aldershot also supports access to Fleet Community Hospital and again the same arguments apply.

Rushmoor Borough Council is also engaged in the regeneration of its Town Centres. The reduction in services to these centres will work counter to those efforts when it would be hoped the County would be seeking to support the initiatives.

It is hoped this demonstrates that these services fulfil vital functions and reductions would be contrary to the aims of both authorities in tackling Climate Change, Supporting Communities and creating high quality places. Rushmoor Borough Council would wish to be involved in any discussion on detailed proposals for these services and to engage positively in how services in Rushmoor can be delivered optimally.

Your proposals will also make Dial-a-Ride, Call & Go and Taxishare less affordable. Together, these cuts will disproportionately affect people with disabilities and on low incomes in a borough with some of the highest rates of deprivation in the county.

It seems unfair finally that you have relied on changes in passenger numbers between 2019/20 and 2021/22 as the basis for making savings when vulnerable people would not have used these services due to the Covid 19 pandemic. The methodology is therefore questionable. However, it is recognised that there are inconsistencies between the various services and that there may be merit in ensuring this is addressed.

Yours sincerely



Tim Mills  
**Head of Planning, Economy and Strategic Housing**