

Cowal Area Local Bus Service Update

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report provides members with information on development work which is ongoing in relation to the supported bus network in Cowal including service 489 which runs between Toward and Glenfinart and service 480 which runs between Upper Kirn and Dunoon Ferry Terminal.

1.2 **Service 489** - Members approved the rescheduling of service 489 to include Argyll Street in its southbound journeys at Area Committee on 3 February 2015. Work on the revised timetable is now complete, and the changes to the route will be implemented from 27th July 2015.

1.3 **Service 480**- Following the withdrawal of commercial service 80 between Hunters Quay Holiday Village and Dunoon, members also agreed on 3 February 2015 at Area Committee to leave the remaining service 480 unchanged. However, due to demand, this service is no longer adequate and frequently runs late. Efficiency options for this service were presented to Area Committee on 2 June 2015, and an update on the ongoing development work is as follows

- A timetable is being developed to provide an hourly service 480 between Hunters Quay Holiday Village, Upper Kirn, Dunoon Ferry Terminal and Milton and to reduce the level of service on Ardenslate Road to hourly being provided by service 489.
- A survey of passengers is currently underway to gauge opinion on the proposal to divert all Portavadie, Rothesay, Inveraray and Carrick Castle journeys via Ardenslate Road and Alexandra Parade. (Services 478, 479, 484 and 486).
- The request to divert service 480 via Dunoon Grammar School has been considered, and an alternative option to divert the duplicate buses on service 489, deployed on school days only and travelling from West Bay, via Milton before travelling to Dunoon Grammar School.

1.4 Any change to service 480 will need to be cost neutral and this should be achieved by reducing overall mileage operated.

1.5 **Recommendation**; Members are asked to note the progress on the changes

already agreed, and consider a further report once the survey of users has been completed.

Cowal Area Local Bus Services

2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report provides members with information on development work which is ongoing in relation to the supported bus network in Cowal including services 489 which runs between Toward and Glenfinart and service 480 which runs between Upper Kirn and Dunoon Ferry Terminal.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Members are asked to note the progress on the changes already agreed, and consider a further report once the survey of users has been completed.

4.0 DETAIL.

4.1 Services 489 Ardentinny and Toward

- 4.1.1 Members approved the change to this service on 3 February 2015 at Area Committee ensuring it will serve Argyll Street on southbound journeys and thereby resolving many of the complaints which have been received from service users from Innellan and Toward.

- 4.2.2 The revised timetable has now been completed, approved at the Cowal Transport Forum on 19 June, 2015, and will become operational with effect from 27 July 2015.

- 4.2.3 Discussion with West Coast Motors is underway to divert one of the duplicate buses deployed on service 489 on school days only from West Bay via Milton and on to Dunoon Grammar School. This is an alternative option to the request to divert service 480 via Dunoon Grammar School.

4.3 Service 480 - Hunters Quay – Dunoon

- 4.2.1 Following the decision taken on 3 February 2015 not to replace commercial service 80 due to budgetary constraints it was decided to leave the remaining

480 service unchanged. Unfortunately, it is now clear that this is a busy service, and it cannot keep to the timetable. Options for rescheduling this service were presented to Area Committee on 2 June, 2015, and details of the ongoing development work are as follows:

4.2.2 The following development work is underway

- Developing a revised timetable to provide an hourly service 480 between Hunters Quay Holiday Village, Upper Kinn, Dunoon Ferry Terminal and Milton and reducing Ardenslate Road to an hourly service provided by service 489.
- A survey of existing users is currently taking place to gauge opinion on diverting all Portavadie, Rothesay, Inveraray and Carrick Castle journeys via Ardenslate Road and Alexandra Parade. (Services 478, 479, 484 and 486). This would provide a reasonable level of service on Alexandra Parade in both directions and also provide additional; journeys on Ardenslate Road in place of service 480 journeys.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Issues relating to service 489 will be resolved when the new timetable becomes operational on 27 July 2015 and service 480 rescheduling is currently being developed and a report will be brought back to the Area Committee for consideration.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Policy - None

6.2 Financial –The cost for diverting service 489 along Argyll Street, southbound was minimal and any change to service 480 as described must be cost neutral, and achieved through a reduction in mileage operated.

6.3 Legal – None

6.4 HR - None

6.5 Equalities - None

6.6 Risk - None

6.7 Customer Service – Potential for complaints through further changes to or withdrawal of services.

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