

Cowal Area Local Bus Services

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 services 477/478/479 which serve West Cowal, Dunoon, Portavadie and Rothesay, also service 489 which runs between Toward and Glenfinart and service 480 which runs between Upper Kirn and Dunoon Ferry Terminal.
- 1.2 **Services 477/478/479** – Due to the variation in the opening hours of Dunoon Grammar School, and the adjustments which were necessary to local services to accommodate this, part of the service, which includes the Dunans/Colintraive area, was withdrawn and an in-house school transport solution was put in place. In order to reinstate a local service, an approach has been made to a local operator, and once approval has been received by him from the Traffic Commissioner, a timetable will be developed. This should be operational from July 2015.
- 1.3 **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 underway, and it should be operational from July 2015.
- 1.4 **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. Alternative options for this service need to be reconsidered as follows
- Rescheduling service 480 to its original timetable to provide two journeys an hour between Upper Kirn and Dunoon Ferry Terminal and once an hour round Milton. This would mean no service from Hunters Quay Holiday Village or on Alexandra Parade, and demand would need to be investigated.
 - Maintaining the 480 as an hourly service between Upper Kirn and Dunoon Ferry Terminal but merging Milton and the Ardenslate loop to save time.
 - Provide a half hourly service 480 between Hunters Quay Holiday Village, Upper Kirn and Dunoon Ferry Terminal, dropping Milton, and reducing

Ardenslate Road to an hourly service provided by service 489.

- Diverting all Portavadie, Rothesay, Inveraray and Carrick Castle journeys via Ardenslate Road and Alexandra Parade. (Services 478, 479, 484 and 486)

- 1.5 In addition there has been a request to consider diverting the 480 via Dunoon Grammar School on school mornings.
- 1.6 Survey work and consultation will be required before a decision can be made on any changes to service 480 in order to minimise inconvenience to service users, and also how to make best use of the available vehicle and driver time.
- 1.7 Any change to service 480 will need to be cost neutral and this should be achieved by reducing overall mileage operated.
- 1.8 **Recommendation;** Members are asked to note the progress on the changes already agreed, and consider a further report once the options for service 480 have been evaluated.

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 477/478/479 which serves West Cowal, Dunoon, Portavadie and Rothesay, also service 489 which runs between Toward and Glenfinart and service 480 which runs between Upper Kilm 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 options for service 480 have been evaluated.

4.0 DETAIL**4.1 Services 477/478/479 West Cowal**

- 4.1.1 Due to the variation in Dunoon Grammar School opening hours a schooldays only journey in Glendaruel ceased to be a local bus service as the journey was taken in-house and operated by a council minibus. The withdrawal of this service raised concerns, and the Integrated Transport Team was charged with identifying a solution.
- 4.1.2 After considering several options which were either too costly or proved impractical, one of the council's transport contractors, was asked to apply to the Traffic Commissioner to use their large taxi to provide a service. A special application has to be made by the operator to the Traffic Commissioner, which will permit a taxi to be operated on a registered local bus service. Although the Traffic Commissioner has delayed the issue of the licence, it is anticipated that it will be forthcoming shortly.
- 4.1.3 Once permission is granted the service can be registered and will once again be available to the general public. It is anticipated that the service will be operational by July 2015.

4.2 Services 489 Ardentinny and Toward

- 4.2.1 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 Work is now underway on amending the timetable for this service and it is anticipated that the amended route will be operational by July 2015.

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. Accordingly, it will now be necessary to re-visit and evaluate some of the earlier options considered at the time the service 80 was withdrawn.
- 4.2.2 It is proposed to consider the following.
- Rescheduling service 480 to its original timetable to provide two journeys an hour between Upper Kirn and Dunoon Ferry Terminal and once an hour round Milton. This would mean no service from Hunters Quay Holiday Village or on Alexandra Parade and patronage on this part of the service would need to be investigated.
 - Maintaining the 480 as an hourly service between Upper Kirn and Dunoon Ferry Terminal but merging Milton and the Ardenslate loop to save time.
 - Provide a half hourly service 480 between Hunters Quay Holiday Village, Upper Kirn and Dunoon Ferry Terminal, dropping Milton, and reducing Ardenslate Road to an hourly service provided by service 489.
 - 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 place of service 480.
- 4.2.3 In addition there has been a request to divert this service via Dunoon Grammar School in the mornings. This, and the options at 4.2.2, will require discussion with the contractor plus consultation with existing users of all the aforementioned services as well as further examination of the patronage pattern on service 480. Thereafter, a further report will be prepared for consideration by members at a future Area Committee meeting.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Areas of concern relating to services 489 and 477/478/479 have now been

resolved, and amended services should be in place by July 2015.

- 5.2 Issues relating to service 480 will be fully investigated in order to identify the most appropriate solution, 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 of restoring a scheduled service to Glendaruel as described in the report will be offset by the withdrawal of the in-house transport. The cost for diverting service 489 along Argyll Street, southbound will be 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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