

**ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION**

EXECUTIVE DECISION

Short Title of Decision:	To trial an Essex County Council supported Sunday Bus service for Brentwood.
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*Tick the relevant box below

Key Decision by Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation

- in consultation with another Cabinet Member
- in consultation with the Director for Development Highways and Transportation

Non Key Decision by Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation

- in consultation with another Cabinet Member
- agreed with the Director for Development Highways and Transportation

Non Key Decision by Director for Development Highways and Transportation

- in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation
- on own account

Recommendation - Decision(s)

To agree to trial a new Sunday service for the Brentwood South Area in line with ECC financial support of local bus services in order to improve accessibility planning criteria and meet minimum service levels.

Background

There has been a long standing issue surrounding the provision of Sunday bus services in Brentwood. The withdrawal of commercial bus services in Brentwood over a number of years has led to residents raising the issue with both their local councillors and County Council. There have been a number of petitions regarding the perceived inadequacy of Sunday services and following consultation carried out in 2007/8 an initial Sunday service along the 73 route was put in place by the County Council. This has proved successful, meeting the Essex criteria for continued support.

During this time residents of the other main area of Brentwood not served on Sundays – Brentwood North, Shenfield, Hutton North, Hutton East, Hutton Central, Hutton South and Brentwood South have continued to argue for a service in their area, stating that they felt isolated on Sundays since they were unable to reach the town centre, which would allow access to other towns and services.

The County Council has a minimum service level in its Local Transport Plan for Sunday services in urban areas, based on key strategic corridors in each town. This link is one such corridor and is not currently met. The proposed 'Hutton Circular Service would fill this shortfall.

A Provisional timetable is attached as appendix A.

This trial combines the resources of bus services 351 and 73 to make efficient use of staff and vehicles whilst maximising value for money. Due to existing road humps in Woodlands Road and Hutton Drive step entrance vehicles will be required to be used on all three services until the appropriate Traffic Regulation Orders and Speed cushions are in place. This work is scheduled for completion by Essex County Council in the next financial year 2010-11 as part of another, pre existing project.

Having considered the matter carefully, it is decided to set up a trial service to run from Sunday 4th October 2009 to Sunday 28th March 2010 in the first instance, with the option to extend the service up to Sunday 29th August 2011 should the initial 6 month trial indicate that use is sufficient to meet ECC criteria for continued support. Its continuation after Sunday 29th August 2011 will depend on the continued use of the service and a successful tender round for the other services involved, which fall due for tender at that time.

This service will result in Essex County Council meeting minimum service levels for Sunday services from this area of Brentwood, improving accessibility to key services (including access to the Queens hospital in Romford). Following the success of service 73 Bishops Hall – Brentwood rail station, this new service is expect to return under the £5 cost per passenger journey criteria for ECC supported services.

Views of the Local County Member

Supported by local County and District Councillors

Views of others Consulted

ECC conducted extensive consultation in January 2007 including questionnaires and drop-in days. There has also been continual ongoing communications with user groups, representatives and local councillors.

Financial Implications

Budget Reference:

Financial year 2009-10 £10459.50, 2010-11 £20,919, 2011-12 £8,716.25 Having obtained quotes from different operators using the least expensive option and assuming 50 passengers travel per day each making a return journey at an average £1.50 fare offers a projected cost per passenger journey of £2.52.

Policy Fit / Reasoning

*Tick the relevant Yes/No box below

Policy Reference:

Is a departure from policy needed? Yes No Is a Cabinet Decision needed? Yes No

Recommended change in policy to be made with this decision:

Originating Officer

I certify that:

- there is an approved budget for the expenditure arising from this decision
- guidance and protocol has been followed as per attached checklist

Details		Signature	Date
Name	Andrew James		
Designation	Passenger Transport Strategy Officer		
Extension	30171		

Consultation

Designation		Signature	Date
* Delete when not relevant to the decision			
* Head of Finance ESH			
Name	Nicole Wood		
Extension	55507		
*Service Director for Development, Highways and Transportation			
Name	Paul Bird		

Decision

* Tick approval / non-approval in the relevant box below

With regard to the recommended decision:

I approve	<input type="checkbox"/>	I do not approve	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Reasons for the decision (to be completed by the decision taker):

Designation		Signature	Date
* Delete when not the decision maker			
* Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation			