

# TEST VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## HEAD OF SERVICE'S DECISION

Committee: Executive  
Chairman: Councillor Ian Carr  
Head of Service: Madalene Winter

### Request from Hampshire County Council for Local Bus Service Revenue Support

#### REASON FOR URGENCY

(After consultation with the Chief Executive)

*had been*  
A letter was received from the Director of Environment at Hampshire County Council explaining that due to budgetary pressures, the County is proposing to withdraw four bus services which serve residents in this Borough. She requested that the Council consider whether we wish to offer any funding support to retain particular services.

A speedy response was requested in order to meet with operators contract dates and before mid-September when the County will make their decisions.

#### BACKGROUND

The four services involved are;

Stagecoach 66	Winchester-Romsey (Sunday)
Marchwood Motorway 12	Chilworth-nursling-Romsey (Friday)
Wilts and Dorset X71	Southampton-West Wellow-Salisbury (Sunday)
Stagecoach 26/76/86	Andover-Winchester-Basingstoke (Sunday)

Due to the low level of use, these services are currently being subsidised at a cost per journey in excess of the County's current policy of a maximum of £2.00 and would be withdrawn so that the County can balance its Passenger Transport Revenue.

The County considers that these services are more leisure oriented and are less likely to provide an essential transport function.

The proposed loss of the services is viewed with much concern, especially as some of the Andover to Winchester journeys may be for hospital visits and others serve rural areas with no alternative means of public transport. However, this Council does not have a budget for passenger transport support and is unable to make any contribution as requested. I have urged the Director of Environment to seek to find

*The Dept of Planning urged*

ways to find the funding and fulfil their responsibilities as a Transport Authority.

*The Head of Planning also asked*

I have also asked the Director of Environment to consider whether the services could be replaced in any other way, perhaps via the Cango service or by the Community Transport Initiatives which we support financially.

*Having considered all the issues the Head of Planning, in accordance with the relevant procedure,*

**DECISION**

(After consultation with the Chairman (or in his absence the Vice-Chairman), who has not requested that the matter be referred to a special meeting of the Committee). That the Council decline the County Council's invitation to contribute funding in order to retain bus services in Test Valley that the County Council previously funded but which it is now proposing to withdraw

Chief Executive's/

Director's Signature: *[Signature]*

Date: 9-9-05

Chairman's/Vice-Chairman's

Signature: *[Signature]*

Date: 14/9/05

Chairman's/Vice-Chairman's  
(Overview & Scrutiny Committee)

Signature: *[Signature]*

Date: 21 Sept '05

Head of Service's

Signature: *[Signature]*

Date: 15/9/05

Reported to Committee on

*12-10-05*

Date: 12-10-05

**DISTRIBUTION**

1. Chief Executive
2. Corporate Director (BS)
3. Corporate Director (CC)
4. Head of Legal Services
5. Head of Administration (original for report to Committee)

**BACKGROUND PAPER:** .....