

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

DATE: 12th January 2017

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WARD(S): All

PART I **FOR COMMENT & CONSIDERATION**

FIRST BUS – CHANGES TO SERVICES AND TIMETABLES

1 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to examine information on the effectiveness of the bus network changes introduced by First Bus Berkshire and to seek ways to improve it.

This report is designed to provide the Committee with information relating to the following issues:

- To examine the effects of severing through-borough services (i.e. no. 75, 76) and what steps have been taken to mitigate impact on passengers.
- To examine the effects of the changed routes for some bus services (i.e. no. 3, 6, 7).

2 Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action

That the Committee note the factors that have collectively contributed to the resulting issues since introducing the bus network changes in September 2016.

3 The Sustainable Community Strategy, the JSNA and the Corporate Plan

Priority – Regeneration and Environment

Bus travel in Slough assists the council in reducing road congestion and subsequently carbon emissions by presenting an option of borough-wide travel without private car use in keeping with the Corporate Plan 2016-2020.

4 Other Implications

(a) Financial

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

(b) Risk Management

Risk	Mitigating action	Opportunities
None	None	There are no risks, threats or opportunities arising from the report.

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no legal or Human Rights Act implications relating to the content of this report.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

There is no identified need for the completion of EIA relating to this report.

5 **Supporting Information**

(a) Why were through-borough services severed and what steps have been taken to mitigate impact on passengers?

From 24th September 2016, First Bus introduced changes to their network in Slough to help deliver more punctual and reliable services into the town centre. Congestion and roadworks in the Slough area are some of the factors that created major problems for the First Bus service reliability.

The previous longer through-borough routes (i.e. Maidenhead - Slough - Heathrow) were susceptible to knock on delays which were difficult to recover. Therefore by dividing routes at Slough gives First Bus services a chance to get the buses back on time and give a more dependable service to customers.

First Bus explained that passengers can obtain through-borough tickets as before the recent changes and use their tickets to board a connecting bus across the road from the bus station.

(b) Why did some bus services in Slough receive routeing changes?

- The Trelawney Ave routing gave a compromise in providing the every 10 mins service to Heathrow and serving the majority of bus users in Langley with the 7 service – previously a 30 mins frequency for the 75/76 service.
- The 3 service (20 mins frequency) also provides an enhancement over the 58.
- The 6A/6 was changed as demand between Wexham Court and the hospital was not sufficient to justify continuing the service. We are now able to provide a 6 service up to every 15 mins – previously 30 mins.
- The new 14 service provides a fast link between Slough and the hospital. It also serves Wexham Road, allowing interchange with the 6 route.

6 **Conclusion**

That the Committee note the report.

7 **Background Papers**

None.