

## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Health Scrutiny Panel **DATE:** 19<sup>th</sup> January 2017  
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**WARD(S):** All

### **PART I** **FOR COMMENT & CONSIDERATION**

#### **BUS SERVICES TO WEXHAM PARK HOSPITAL**

##### 1. **Purpose of Report**

1.1 To consider the current arrangements for public transport to Wexham Park Hospital and their suitability for the future.

##### 2. **Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action**

2.1 The Health Scrutiny Panel is requested to:

- a) Comment on the current arrangements,
- b) Make suitable recommendations as to how these could be amended to benefit local residents and hospital visitors, and
- c) Refer any matters as appropriate for further scrutiny.

##### 3. **The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Council's Five Year Plan**

###### 3a. **Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities and Joint Strategic Needs Assessment**

Access to healthcare for all residents relates to the following aspects of the Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy:

- Increasing life expectancy by focusing on inequalities
- Improving mental health and wellbeing

###### 3b. **Council's Five Year Plan Outcomes**

This report relates to the following Five Year Plan outcome:

- Our people will become healthier and will manage their own health, care and support needs

##### 4. **Other Implications**

- (a) Financial - the report is not requesting any further subsidies or outlay from Slough Borough Council (SBC).

- (b) Risk Management - There are no identified risks associated with the proposed actions beyond those relating to access to the hospital.
- (c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications - There are no direct legal implications.
- (d) Equalities Impact Assessment - There is no requirement to complete an Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) in relation to this report.

## 5. **Supporting Information**

5.1 As of 24<sup>th</sup> September 2016, First Bus made significant changes to their bus services. As part of this, the direct route between Uxbridge Road, Wexham Court and Wexham Park Hospital (part of Route 6) became obsolete.

5.2 First Bus did not change their ticketing arrangements at this time. This allowed passengers from across Slough to access Wexham Park Hospital by changing buses at Slough Bus Station. At this point, they can purchase a Slough area ticket. However, these are no longer valid on the WP1 route; this means that passengers for the hospital can only use Route 14.

5.3 The routes now operating between the hospital and other areas are now as summarised in the table below (Wexham Park Hospital is referred to as WPH):

Route	Route Covered	Frequency			Provider
		Mon – Fri	Sat	Sun	
14	Slough Bus Station – WPH (via Shaggy Calf Lane)	3 per hour	2 per hour	1 per hour	First in Berkshire
WP1	Slough Bus Station – WPH (via Stoke Road)	4 per hour	-	-	Redline
53	Bracknell – Maidenhead – Britwell – WPH	1 per hour	1 every 2 hours	-	Courtney
335	Slough Bus Station – WPH – Chalfont	1 every 2 hours	1 every 2 hours	-	Redline
583	Slough Bus Station – Hedgerley – WPH – Langley – Uxbridge	3 per day	3 per day	-	Redline

The exact details of the routes can be found in Appendix A.

5.4 At present, these different services operate under a variety of arrangements. The first 2 routes in the table (Routes 14 and WP1) operate without any subsidy. The other routes all receive financial support; Route 53 from Bracknell Forest Borough Council, the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and Buckinghamshire County Council, and Routes 335 and 583 from Buckinghamshire County Council alone.

5.5 In the near future, there have been indications from the Frimley Health Trust that it intends to let a concession. The current intention is for this to restrict access to Wexham Park Hospital to 1 commercially operated by service from Slough Bus Station.

6. **Comments of Other Committees**

6.1 This specific matter has not been discussed by any other Committee.

7. **Conclusion**

7.1 The Panel is requested to clarify its views on the issues raised by the changes to the bus services to Wexham Park Hospital and how these may be mitigated.

8. **Appendices**

'A' - Route maps for services to Wexham Park Hospital

9. **Background Papers**

None.