
PETITION FOR THE RETENTION OF LOCAL BUS SERVICE 120 KELSO, JEDBURGH AND HAWICK (RETURN)

Briefing Note by the Service Director Commercial Services

PETITIONS COMMITTEE

1 OCTOBER 2015

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 **This briefing note advises the Petitions Committee of the background to a petition received from Hawick Community Council regarding the retention of local bus service 120. Officers recommend no further action is warranted.**
- 1.2 This bus route which runs between Hawick, Jedburgh and Kelso was operated on a commercial basis (no subsidy from the Council) by First Buses until January 2015
- 1.3 In January 2015 First Buses decided that they were no longer able to operate the route commercially. The Council stepped in and offered a temporary solution to subsidise the service with First Buses until a retender of bus services could be undertaken in the Summer of 2015. It was explained to Councillors at the time that this was a temporary solution for 6 months and budget would be found from existing resources.
- 1.4 Following the retender it became obvious that the cost of operating this route was far in excess of any available budget. It should be noted that as a commercial bus service the Council had no budget allocated for this route.
- 1.5 A restructured service 120 (20) was designed using a single bus operation with a reduced timetable and frequency based on passenger numbers gathered from data collected since January 2015. This revised timetable was sent out to Communities for consultation in July. Feedback was given and some minor changes were made to the timetable to try and accommodate community requests particularly around provision to Eckford, Jedburgh Town and Weensland Road, Hawick however, it was not possible to meet every request and remain in budget.
- 1.6 The revised service has operated since 17 August 2015. To date there has been very little negative passenger response.

2 CONCLUSION

- 2.1 **I recommend that the Committee notes the Petition received for the retention of local bus service 120 but takes no further action.**

Approved by

Service Director Commercial Services Signature

Author(s)

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Background Papers: Petitions Procedure

Previous Minute Reference: None

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