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

**Briefing Note by Service Director Commercial Services**

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### **PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS COMMITTEE 10 DECEMBER 2015**

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#### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This briefing note advises the Petitions Committee of the background to a petition received from Teviot locality residents 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 Borders until January 2015
- 1.3 In January 2015 First Borders 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 Borders 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 (re-numbered 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, within Jedburgh and Weensland Road, Hawick.
- 1.6 The revised service has operated since 17<sup>th</sup> August 2015. Further timetable changes were introduced on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2015 – these were small frequency enhancements made largely at the Community Councils request to accommodate local traveller demand. 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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