

Appendix 2: Review of subsidised local bus services
Summary of Questions and Statements
Member Seminar, Chamber, Ty Penallta, 6 March 2013, 1700-1815

Attendees:

Cllr Gina Bevan
Cllr John Bevan
Cllr Denis Bolter
Cllr David Carter
Cllr Patricia Cook
Cllr Carl Cuss
Cllr Tudor Davies
Cllr James Fussell
Cllr Chris Hawker
Cllr Ken James
Cllr Martin James
Cllr Janet Jones
Cllr Andrew Lewis
Cllr Keith Lloyd
Cllr Colin Mann
Cllr Sean Morgan
Cllr Rhianon Passmore
Cllr Judith Pritchard
Cllr John Roberts
Cllr Eluned Stenner
Cllr Jean Summers
Cllr John Taylor
Cllr Tom Williams
Cllr Robin Woodyatt

Apologies:

Cllr Lyn Ackerman
Cllr Katherine Baker
Cllr Lyndon Binding
Cllr Anne Blackman
Cllr Colin Durham
Cllr Rob Gough
Cllr Gary Johnston
Cllr Gez Kirby
Cllr Denver Preece
Cllr Dianne Price
Cllr Roy Saralis

APPENDIX 2

	Councillor's Name & Ward	Comment	Response
1	Cllr John Bevan Abertysswg	We have previously had problems with the loss of commercial services. What will be the impact of commercial services?	The impact is too soon to predict. Strong commercial networks should be able to continue. The report indicates the services, which have already been cut/altered to mitigate the funding cut. Operators and the council will continue to review services.
2	Cllr David Carter Bargoed	Do bus companies conduct surveys of passenger numbers?	Operators keep detailed reports on passenger numbers – this report uses that data.
3	Cllr David Cater Bargoed	Can we be more flexible with operators particularly in relation to evening services as it could have an impact on commuters?	Limited scope to be flexible but we do work with operators. Most evening tendered journeys are from 1830/1900 onwards so the vast majority of commuters will not be affected. The proposals mainly affect late evening and Sunday journeys.
3	Cllr Tudor Davies Bargoed	There appears to be more cuts in Bargoed than elsewhere. When the cinema and Morrisons opens will there be a review of service to ensure Bargoed successful?	Unfortunately, this is where there is a high cost per passenger coupled with low usage however not all service in Bargoed are being cut. Officers will work with the cinema operator and Morrisons to review service levels as would usually be done elsewhere.
4	Cllr Martin James Ystrad Mynach	Do we subsidise commercial services?	No. Commercial services make money from 3 sources – Cash fares, reimbursement of concessionary travel and BSOG.
5	Cllr Martin James Ystrad Mynach	Disappointed with the loss of route 7 as it is the only cross-valley link in the evening.	Withdrawing services is always a last option but there are just not enough people using them.
6	Cllr Martin James Ystrad Mynach	The loss of the direct link from the Rhymney & Pontylottyn to Ystrad Fawr Hospital is a concern as it is the only service available for family to visit those in hospital.	Withdrawing services is always a last option but there are just not enough people using them. It is only the Sunday service that is proposed to be withdrawn. The evening service will be reduced from hourly to 2 hourly. <i>Post meeting note: Residents of Pontlottyn and Rhymney will still be able to access the hospital by using route 1 as far as Bargoed then changing to Route 50 to/from Ystrad Mynach Hospital.</i>
7	Cllr Robin Woodyatt Maesycwmmmer	When will this information go to members of the public?	The report will go to Cabinet. Operators need to be given 12 weeks notice of termination or variation for their contracts. We will advise the public as we normally would eg. Notices on buses, web etc.
8	Cllr Robin Woodyatt Maesycwmmmer	Whilst these are important services there are so few people using some of them.	Noted

APPENDIX 2

9	Cllr Colin Mann Llanbradach	Disappointed to see the rail linc being cut. It would be better if this could be every 15 minutes to meet the trains.	It would be excellent to increase the frequency but it would need more resources. The route only carries rail passengers, which means the Council only gets a small payment from Arriva Trains Wales for the add-on fare. The proposed minor reduction in service would not affect the majority of users/commuters.
10	Cllr Colin Mann Llanbradach	Can we save costs by cross subsidising from the profit making daytime services?	No – the Transport Act does not allow cross-subsidy.
11	Cllr Sean Morgan Nelson	Will the reduction in BSOG affect commercial services?	The impact is too soon to predict. Strong commercial networks should be able to continue but operators may need to raise fares to cover the reduction.
12	Cllr Sean Morgan Nelson	Will this have any affect on schools?	No – Home to School transport is a separate budget.
13	Cllr Rhiannon Passmore Risca East	This will have an affect on isolated communities. The report mentions that there will be a review – how will this happen and when?	Officers will need to assess what impact these cuts will have and what changes the operators will make to commercial services. Officers will regularly review the whole network to ensure the best possible network is maintained and best value delivered. If there are specific areas that need further attention Officers can investigate these.
14	Cllr John Bevan Abertyswg	Is this the thin end of the wedge when it comes to public transport – will we see more cuts?	Hopefully not. The Minister has said he wants to see growth and regionally there are plans in place to develop and promote a more coordinated network. Officers from the Council sit on regional and national groups developing future projects
15	Cllr Colin Mann Llanbradach	What is the potential for savings to be made elsewhere in the division to put towards this?	£800K from the Engineering Service Division has been put forward for consideration as part of the MTFP. The other service areas within the Environment have undergone a similar exercise.
16	Cllr David Carter Bargoed	I feel sorry for Alex Clarke who worked to improve the Sunday Network so much that we won an Award.	Noted. Most of the Sunday network which achieved the higher levels of increased passenger numbers will be retained.