

**WILTSHIRE COUNCIL
SALISBURY AREA BOARD
6th JULY 2017**

FIVE RIVERS HEALTH AND WELLBEING CENTRE – SHUTTLE BUS PILOT

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. To update the area board on the outcome of the pilot project to run a shuttle bus service from the city centre to Five Rivers during 2016/17.
- 1.2. To ask the area board to confirm whether or not the shuttle service should continue.

2. Background

- 2.1. Attached at appendix 1 is a report that went to the area board in March 2016, seeking funding for a community transport run shuttle bus service, to fulfil the planning condition attached to the permission to build the Five Rivers Health & Wellbeing Centre (HWC).

3. Update

- 3.1 The shuttle bus service, and the 'free to hire' minibus service from the centre have each been operating since June 2016, and these arrangements have satisfied the planning condition.
- 3.2 Take up of the shuttle bus service has not been strong, with no more than 150 passenger journeys during the 12 month pilot, these most consistently being clients from The Meadows (Adult Day Opportunities Service for people with learning disabilities), and walking groups, choosing to use Five Rivers as a starting point for their weekly walks.
- 3.3 The area board is asked to decide if it would like to continue funding the shuttle service, or to cease this scheme.
- 3.4 Originally, the hope had been to negotiate a bus service from Salisbury Reds, but this did not prove economically viable for Reds, and would have incurred over £10k capital costs to the area board in junction and access improvements (the service explored was to divert an existing Reds bus through the back of Waitrose to connect with Ashley Rd.)
- 3.5 Having had to opt for a community transport operated shuttle, this left the area board in a difficult position to find sufficient revenue funds that could only run a service on one morning of the week – this has been a factor in hampering the generation of any real demand for the service.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 The area board would need to allocate up to £4,000 (max.) of revenue funds to continue the shuttle service, on the basis that this would be extended to stop at routes on Bemerton Heath, which it is felt would generate more of a demand for the service, in comparison to the current 2 stops (New Canal and Iceland on Castle Rd).
- 4.2 The revenue sources at the area board's disposal are designated either for positive activities for young people, or for projects to support the health and wellbeing of older people or vulnerable adults.
- 4.3 We have looked at options for linking the shuttle to activities in the centre, focusing on those that are available to over 50s on a Tuesday afternoon. This would therefore mean calling upon funds from the Health & Wellbeing budget (remaining funds for 2017/18 are £4,850).

5. Recommendations

5.1 Agree to fund a community transport operated shuttle bus (whether from its own funds, or by researching other funds) (approximate annual budget required would be £4,000); or

5.2 Agree not to fund the service, and to request for the planning condition to be removed, on the basis that:

- despite piloting a community bus service from the city centre to Five Rivers, demand for the service has been very low, with no more than 150 passenger journeys being recorded for the duration of the pilot.
- one of the main users of the bus have been clients from The Meadows, who have a number of their own mini-buses available that could arguably be used as an alternative
- there are a number of other ways in which users of Five Rivers are travelling sustainably (and facilitated to do so) to the centre: cycling/walking routes and links, a commercial bus service stopping on Castle Road, the free to hire minibus for groups, The Meadows minibuses, weekly school minibus services bringing pupils to swim

or

5.3 Delay further funding of the scheme for 12 months, pending the outcome of a review of commercially operated bus services in Salisbury (due August 2018), as part of which it could be requested (subject to the availability of central funding) that the new commercial bus service include within its routing a bus that serves Five Rivers, maybe even incorporating a stop within the grounds of the centre.

10 March 2016

COMMUNITY BUS SERVICE FOR FIVE RIVERS HEALTH & WELLBEING CENTRE

Purpose of the report

1. To update the board on progress to put in place a scheme to facilitate a bus link for the community to access the new Five Rivers Health & Wellbeing Centre.

Background

2. When the planning permission for the then Five Rivers Campus (now referred to as the Health & Wellbeing Centre) was agreed, the following condition was included:

Prior to the occupation of any of the new buildings, the subject of this application, details of the provision of the proposed community bus, its funding arrangements and its proposed route and timetabling shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The Community bus shall be operated in accordance with the agreed routeing and timetabling, unless alternative arrangements are agreed by the local planning authority.

REASON; In the interests of encouraging use of sustainable transport modes to access the site.

Proposal

3. To pilot a community bus scheme in partnership with the transport service run by Wessex Community Action, to initially run one day a week, on a Thursday, from the city centre to Five Rivers.
4. The estimated cost of providing this service is £2,500 (based on the operator costs of £60 a day, running the service for 38 weeks from May 2016 – May 2017).
5. The service would provide two return trips on the Thursday to coincide with classes at the HWC, giving users of the service a range of leisure options to choose from, in addition to swimming and the fitness suite.
6. Users of the service would be charged a fee of £2, which the operator would retain to cover any losses in the initial phases of the pilot

Recommendation

7. To confirm support for the pilot and to allocate £2,500 to fund the scheme.

Report Author: Karen Linaker, Community Area Manager, 01722 434697