service in some cases, but this will only be possible in specific instances where significant hardship would result, and where a viable and affordable alternative can be identified. This could for example include making use of community and voluntary transport to meet specific identified needs; you may wish to discuss this with local community and voluntary transport groups if appropriate.

With this in mind, this letter is being sent to all town and parish councils, and Area Board members, with an attachment showing details of the proposals that are relevant to your particular area. I would be grateful if you could discuss these locally, and write to me if you are aware of any specific aspects of the proposals that would cause significant hardship. If so, it would be helpful to know how many people will be affected, and what specific journeys they would no longer be able to make.

We will let you know when firm dates have been set for the introduction of the changes. In the meantime, I would be grateful if you could let me know by 1 May whether there are any significant concerns in your area, so that we have the opportunity if necessary to investigate alternative provision before the changes are implemented.

The above changes are the first step towards implementing the strategic review of the bus network proposed in the Local Transport Plan. This will include defining 'strategic' and 'local' services, and re-planning the way services are provided to meet local needs and demand in the most cost-effective way. As part of the reviews we will also be seeking to expand the role of community and voluntary transport where local groups and communities are able and willing to help. Town and Parish Councils, and the Area Boards, will be consulted at an early stage of the reviews affecting their area.

Yours sincerely

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