

30 August 2013

Passenger Transport Unit  
County Hall  
Bythesea Road  
Trowbridge  
Wiltshire  
BA14 8JN

Our ref: IW/PT B302

Dear Consultee

## Review of Corsham Town bus service

The Council is currently reviewing the Corsham town bus service, and I am writing to ask for your views on the proposed changes to the service, which it is intended will be introduced in January 2014.

This is part of an ongoing series of reviews of bus services across the county, which aim to identify the most cost-effective means of meeting local access needs in a way that can be financially sustainable in the longer term. The reviews are being carried out in the context of the current pressures on public spending and the requirement of the Council's Financial Plan to make savings in funding for bus services. They are therefore looking in particular at journeys that require a relatively high level of council funding in relation to the number of passengers they carry, or which are less well used.

In the case of the Corsham town service there are two additional reasons why the service has to be reviewed at this time;

- For the last three years the service has been partly funded from external sources. This funding will come to an end during the current year, and as a result the cost to the Council of supporting the current level of service would rise to £160,000 per annum
- The bus operator has recently given notice to terminate early his contract for operating the service, and this is expected to lead to a further increase in cost if the existing timetable is retained

**An information sheet is attached** which includes a commentary on the service that is currently provided, and details of the proposed changes.

Your views are sought on these proposals and in particular your answers to the following two questions;

1. **Are you aware of any significant hardship** that would be caused if these proposals were implemented? If so, please could you let us know what specific journeys could no longer be made and, if possible, give an indication of how many people you think would be affected.
2. **Do you have any suggestions for alternative proposals** that would achieve a similar level of financial saving with less impact? ( we are aware that in some cases there may be other ways of meeting some of the needs of the area in other ways, for example by community or voluntary transport.)

The consultation will close on **4 October 2013**. Responses can be sent by post to the Passenger Transport Unit, Wiltshire Council, County Hall, Trowbridge BA14 8JN (attention of Ian White); or by email to [buses@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:buses@wiltshire.gov.uk).

This consultation letter has been sent via the Area Board manager to local councillors, and to other local groups or organisations who may want to respond. It has also been sent to some countywide organisations, and to local community transport groups.

Questionnaires will also be made available on the buses so that users are able to comment on the proposals. Copies of the consultation documents are available on the council's website at [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/consultations) , or can be requested from the address above.

Yours sincerely



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