

Chairman's Announcements

Subject:	Proposed changes to Connect2 Wiltshire bus services in the Calne and Marlborough area
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Summary of announcement:

As a part of its ongoing programme of reviews of supported bus services, Wiltshire Council is currently consulting on proposed changes to the Connect2 Wiltshire services that operate between Marlborough and Calne, in the Calne / Heddington area and between Marlborough and Devizes.

Details of the proposals and an invitation to respond have been circulated via the Area Boards to town and parish councils, Area Board members and other groups or individuals who may wish to respond. Consultation questionnaires are also being made available on the buses and in local libraries. The consultation documents can also be found on the council and Our Community Matters websites.

The aim of the proposals is to reduce the cost of operating the services, which are relatively expensive to provide in relation to the number of passengers using them, while continuing to provide a service that we hope will still meet the main needs of the majority of existing users. In addition to changes to the frequency and timing of journeys, the proposals would also replace the current bookable service that is available in some areas with fixed route timetabled services. This would allow a significant saving to be made as there would no longer be a need to pay for a call centre or booking system.

The consultation closes on 14 May, and it is intended to introduce the revised services in October 2014..