

**Special Zetland Transport Partnership
Bressay Room, NHS Headquarters, Montfield, Lerwick
Friday 20 July 2018 at 10am**

Present:

R Hunter
R McGregor
R Roberts
D Sandison
R Thomson

Advisers:

S Mathieson

Apologies:

S Coutts
S Laurenson
A Priest
D Simpson

In attendance (Officers):

M Craigie, Lead Officer
J Belford, Executive Manager – Finance
P Wishart, Solicitor
L Adamson, Committee Officer

Chair

Mr Thomson, Chairperson of the Partnership, presided.

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

Declarations of Interest

Mr Roberts declared an interest in the following item, as his child travels on buses to and from the Anderson High School.

18/18 Alterations to Public Bus and Ferry Timetables

The Partnership considered a report by the Lead Officer for ZetTrans (ZTP-21-18-F) seeking approval of proposed alterations to some public bus and ferry timetables, together with an amendment to the approved 2018/19 budget of £22k in both income and expenditure, with an overall net impact to ZetTrans of zero.

The Lead Officer for ZetTrans summarised the main terms of the report, commenting on the good range of feedback received from the consultation undertaken. He advised on a resolution to the negative representation from some current users of the Yell Ferry service, in that the proposed 0630 sailing from Toft could be changed to a 0635 sailing which, with agreement from their employer for the shift workers to leave work slightly earlier, would accommodate their requirements and remove the negative component from the changes proposed.

The Lead Officer outlined the financial consequences as a result of the proposed changes, confirming that the increased budget costs will be met by the Schools Service and there would be no impact on ZetTrans budgets.

The Chair thanked the Lead Officer and his staff for the amount of hard work undertaken in making the proposed alterations to the bus and ferry timetables as set out in Appendix 1. He reported on the representations he had received from residents of the North Isles who depend on the lifeline ferry services, that the vast majority had been positive and wholly in favour of the changes, which he advised, among other benefits, will allow people to travel to Lerwick for 0800. The Chair advised on his support for the proposed change to the Toft to Ulsta ferry timetable from 0630 to 0635 that would accommodate the shift workers from Sullom Voe.

During the discussion, comment was made that the solution reached in response to the negative representation from the shift workers was a good example of local democracy.

In responding to questions, the Lead Officer advised that it was not a statutory requirement to provide school transport for pupils who have made placing requests to study at the Anderson High School (AHS) instead of the high school within their locality, however the alternations to the bus and ferry timetables as proposed would enable those pupils, who have opted to take advantage of the greater choice of curriculum and a wider range of opportunities at the AHS, to have access to public transport. The Lead Officer confirmed that there was no detail at this time on the projected further placing requests in future years.

In responding to a request for further detail on the potential negative impact on south mainland residents from the changes proposed to the No. 6 Service, the Lead Officer reported that there had been some indication during the survey of passengers that the 10-minute change proposed where the bus would depart Sumburgh airport at 1710, instead of 1700, may impact on workers accessing evening work in Lerwick.

In responding to a question, the Lead Officer undertook to provide clarity on the Friday bus service from Lerwick to Walls for pupils not entitled to school transport, that would fit with the earlier 1400 close on Fridays.

During the discussion, the Lead Officer acknowledged that while timescales and resources during the consultation had been limited, he advised that in going forward the aim would be to engage further with communities to generate ideas, alternatives and solutions for the bus and ferry services.

The Lead Officer reported that the changes to the bus timetables would be advertised in the local press, on the buses, in bus shelters and on the ZetTrans App. He advised also on the improvement to the ZetTrans App in early course, that would include a feedback option.

In response to comments regarding the implications of the increased budgets and ongoing cost pressures, the Lead Officer advised that there were a range of measures that would be adopted when renewing the bus contracts to influence the cost of the service.

During debate, Mr Thomson said that with the change to the 0630 sailing from Toft to 0635, he moved that the Partnership approve the recommendations in the report. Mr McGregor seconded.

Decision:

The Partnership:

- APPROVED the proposed alterations to bus and ferry timetables as contained in Appendix 1, with an amendment that the 0630 sailing from Toft is changed to 0635,
- APPROVED the formal amendment to the approved 2018/19 budget of £22k in both income and expenditure, with an overall net impact to ZetTrans of zero.
- NOTED that the total value over a full year of the proposed alterations is £47k per annum and that £33k per annum will be incorporated into future ZetTrans budget planning processes, with the remaining £14k per annum remaining within Shetland Islands Council expenditure; and
- INSTRUCTED the Lead Officer, or his nominee, to make all necessary arrangements and take all action necessary to implement the Decision taken.

The meeting concluded at 10.30am.

CHAIRPERSON