

CABINET – 23 JUNE 2011

RESTORATION OF THE SEVENOAKS WEALD ELEMENT OF THE 402 BUS SERVICE

Report of the: Community and Planning Services Director

Status: For Decision

Key Decision: No

Executive Summary: Arriva have recently taken the decision to remove Sevenoaks Weald from the 402 bus service between Bromley and Tunbridge Wells. It is understood that this is as a result of timetabling difficulties caused by congestion in Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells. Kent County Council have sought to compensate for the loss of this service by extending the subsidised 421 route between Sevenoaks and Dartford to Sevenoaks Weald.

This report contains two letters, which it is recommended are sent to Arriva and Kent County Council, asking the two organisations to investigate how the congestion issues in Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells could be overcome and requesting that KCC consider how more frequent services can be provided for Sevenoaks Weald, including providing access to Hildenborough.

This report supports the Key Aim of keeping Sevenoaks District Moving from the Sustainable Community Action Plan 2010-2013

Portfolio Holder Cllr Mrs Davison.

Head of Service Head of Development Services – Mr. Jim Kehoe

Recommendation to Cabinet: It be RESOLVED that the attached letters be sent to Arriva and Kent County Council.

Reason for recommendation: Reinstatement of the Sevenoaks Weald section of the 402 or a frequent replacement service, with the choice of a range of destinations, will help to improve residents access to shops, services and jobs without the need to drive by public car.

Introduction

- 1 Arriva have recently taken the decision to remove Sevenoaks Weald from the 402 bus service between Bromley and Tunbridge Wells. It is understood that this is as a result of timetabling difficulties caused by congestion in Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells. Kent County Council have sought to compensate for the

loss of this service by extending the subsidised 421 route between Sevenoaks and Dartford to Sevenoaks Weald. However, the 421 only stops at Sevenoaks Weald 4 times per day (between Monday and Friday), with the first bus leaving at 10:20. In addition, the 421 service does not provide access to Hildenborough, which is a local centre for services for residents of Sevenoaks Weald.

- 2 This has caused hardship for residents of Sevenoaks Weald by reducing their access to key services and facilities, such as schools and GP surgeries.
- 3 This reduction in access to services is contradictory to what KCC's Local Transport Plan 2011-2016 and Sevenoaks District Strategy for Transport are seeking to achieve.
- 4 The attached letters to Kent County Council (Appendix A) and Arriva (Appendix B) request that the two organisations investigate how more frequent services can be provided for Sevenoaks Weald, including providing access to Hildenborough.

Key Implications

Financial

There are no financial implications for Sevenoaks District Council.

Community Impact and Outcomes

Reinstatement of the Sevenoaks Weald section of the 402 or a frequent replacement service, with the choice of a range of destinations, will help to improve residents access to shops, services and jobs without the need to drive by private car.

Legal, Human Rights etc.

No impact.

Conclusions

It is recommended that the letters to Kent County Council (Appendix A) and Arriva (Appendix B) are agreed and sent.

Risk Assessment Statement

No risks identified.

Attached Documents

Appendix A – Letter to Cllr Brian Sweetland of Kent County Council

Appendix B – Letter to Arriva

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