



CABINET
23 June 2011 at 7.00 pm
CONFERENCE ROOM - COUNCIL OFFICE

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Membership:

Chairman: Cllr. P Fleming

Vice-Chairman

Cllrs: Cllr. Mrs P Bosley, Cllr. Mrs E Bracken, Cllr. Mrs C Clark,
Cllr Mrs J Davison, Cllr. Mrs A Hunter and Cllr. B Ramsey

The following additional items will be considered at the meeting:

11. **Restoration of the Sevenoaks Weald Element of the 402 Bus Route**

(Pages 1 - 8)

Steve Craddock

To assist in the speedy and efficient despatch of business, Members wishing to obtain factual information on items included on the Agenda are asked to enquire of the appropriate Director or Contact Officer named on a report prior to the day of the meeting.

Should you require a copy of this agenda or any of the reports listed on it in another format please do not hesitate to contact the Democratic Services Team as set out below.

For any other queries concerning this agenda or the meeting please contact:

The Democratic Services Team (01732 227241)

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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

Contact Officer(s):

Steve Craddock - 7315

Alan Dyer - 7440.

Kristen Paterson
Community and Planning Services Director

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Cllr Brian Sweetland
Kent County Council
County Hall
Maidstone
ME14 1XQ

Direct line:
Ask for:
My ref:
Your ref:
Email:

Date:

Dear Cllr Sweetland,

REMOVAL OF SEVENOAKS WEALD FROM ARRIVA 402 BUS ROUTE

As you will be aware, Arriva recently took the decision that the 402 bus would no longer serve Sevenoaks Weald, as a result of timetabling problems caused by congestion in Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells. I am writing to you today to express Sevenoaks District Council's disappointment with this decision and to ask that you join me in writing to Arriva to explain the hardship that this has caused for residents of Sevenoaks Weald by reducing their access to key services and facilities, such as schools and GP surgeries. 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.

You will also be aware that Kent County Council has sought to compensate residents of Sevenoaks Weald by extending the 421 tendered route between Sevenoaks and Dartford to Sevenoaks Weald. However, this bus only runs from Sevenoaks Weald 4 times per day, with the first service leaving at 10:20. Furthermore, this service does not provide access to Hildenborough, which is an important centre for services for residents of Sevenoaks Weald. In addition to utilising KCC's highways and transport planning responsibilities to seek to resolve the issues that led to the withdrawal of 402 service from Sevenoaks Weald, I would ask that KCC consider what more it can do to compensate residents of Sevenoaks Weald for the loss of the 402 service.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Peter Fleming
Leader of Sevenoaks District Council

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Mr Robert Patterson
Business Development Manager,
Arriva Southern Counties,
Invicta House,
Armstrong Road,
Maidstone
ME15 6TX

Direct line:
Ask for:
My ref:
Your ref:
Email:

Date:

Dear Mr Patterson,

REMOVAL OF SEVENOAKS WEALD FROM ARRIVA 402 BUS ROUTE

I am writing to you regarding Arriva's recent decision that the 402 bus would no longer serve Sevenoaks Weald. I understand that this is as a result of timetabling problems caused by congestion in Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells. I would like to express Sevenoaks District Council's disappointment with this decision and to highlight the hardship that this has caused for residents of Sevenoaks Weald by reducing their access to key services and facilities, such as schools and GP surgeries. Whilst KCC has sought to compensate residents of Sevenoaks Weald by extending the 421 tendered route between Sevenoaks and Dartford to Sevenoaks Weald, this bus only runs from Sevenoaks Weald 4 times per day, with the first service leaving at 10:20. This service also does not provide access to Hildenborough, which is an important centre for services for residents of Sevenoaks Weald.

Sevenoaks District Council have asked that Kent County Council uses its highways and transport planning responsibilities to seek to resolve the issues that led to the withdrawal of 402 service from Sevenoaks Weald. SDC hope that Arriva will be keen to listen to your customers and adapt your services, in accordance with your company's Corporate Responsibility pledges.

Yours sincerely

Peter Fleming
Leader of Sevenoaks District Council

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