

Bus Service Through Auchendinny
Report by Ricky Moffat, Head of Commercial Operations**1 Purpose of Report**

To present a petition from A. Steadman calling upon the Council to ensure the Number 40 bus service which is used by persons residing in Auchendinny is not withdrawn; advising that a recent survey undertaken by the Council relating to the usage of the service is understood to be inaccurate and requesting that the Number. 37 or 15 bus service could be rerouted through Auchendinny.

2 Petition

- 2.1** The attached petition has been received from A. Steadman and has been signed by another 87 residents.

3 Petitions – Rules and Procedures

- 3.1** The adopted Midlothian procedures identify 11 categories for which petitions cannot be entertained. The submitted petition is not proscribed by any of these categories and is therefore valid.

- 3.2** The petition is in the following terms,viz:-

There is a great need for a bus service passing through Auchendinny and in particular going on to Edinburgh.

Rumours are that having deprived us of the No. 15 service there is now a plan to take even the 40 which is less well used. We believe that your survey showed only 5 passengers to have used the bus service in 26 journeys. We believe your survey to be inaccurate as every morning 6 passengers go to Penicuik on the 8.26 alone. It is a vital service for families with young children, working people and pensioners alike. Most senior citizens are unable to walk up to the A701 and find the taxi service too expensive and hard to arrange, especially if they do not have a phone. By removing the bus, you will be condemning some needy people to imprisonment in their own homes. Many of the new families who recently moved into Dalmore Mill also depend on the bus.

Perhaps there is a tolerance for the frequency of the service to be adjusted, but complete removal of Edinburgh and Penicuik services altogether is damning for our community. We want you to provide adequate services for Auchendinny travelling to Edinburgh, Penicuik, Roslin and Dalkeith.

If the No. 37 or 15 were routed through Auchendinny once per hour and at least once between 8 pm and 11 pm it would be a great help.

4 Report Implications

4.1 Resource

There are no resource implications arising from this report.

4.2 Risk

There are no risk implications arising from this report.

4.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

Themes addressed in this report:

- ☐ Community safety
- ☐ Adult health, care and housing
- ☐ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ☐ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- ☐ Sustainable growth
- ☐ Business transformation and Best Value
- ☒ None of the above

4.4 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

Not applicable

4.5 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

Not applicable.

4.6 Adopting a Preventative Approach

Not applicable.

4.7 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

The availability of a Petitions Committee allows stakeholders to raise issues for consideration by the Council.

4.8 Ensuring Equalities

Not applicable.

4.9 Supporting Sustainable Development

Not applicable.

4.10 IT Issues

Not applicable.

5 Recommendation

The Committee is invited to consider the petition submitted by A. Steadman calling upon the Council to ensure that the No. 40 bus service is not withdrawn from Auchendinny and requesting that an adequate bus service for persons residing in Auchendinny is provided.

9 December 2016

Report Contact:

Verona MacDonald Tel No 0131 271 3161

E-mail verona.macdonald@midlothian.gov.uk

Background Papers: Petition from A. Steadman