

No 15 and No.40 Bus Service serving Roslin and Auchendinny

Report by John Blair, Director, Resources

1 Purpose of Report

To present a petition from residents of Auchendinny, Roslin and others calling upon the Council to recommend to Lothian Buses to rescind their decision to alter the number 15 and 40 bus routes.

2 Background

Lothian Regional Transport (LRT) recently reviewed their operation of the No.15 and No.40 bus routes. In essence, their decision was to withdraw the No.15 bus route from serving Roslin and Auchendinny and replace this with a revision to the route of the No.40 bus route. The new service would operate half hourly. **(See Appendix 1)**

3 Petition

- 3.1 The attached petition **(Appendix 2)** has been received from Emma Hutt, 8 Penicuik Road, Roslin..

4 Petitions – Rules and Procedures

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 The petition is in the following terms,viz:-

“We, the undersigned bus users, strongly object to the scheduled changes to the Lothian Bus number 15 and number 40 bus routes. The changes will directly affect many , cutting off the link from Auchendinny and Roslin to Morningside and Edinburgh city centre and meaning there is no useful service passing Asda from Auchendinny or Roslin. In 2012, there was a public consultation, but there was no sign that this vital community link would be withdrawn. The service has been withdrawn with no consultation or engagement. Miller Homes have recently built 120 new houses in Auchendinny with home owners having bought on the understanding that there was a direct bus link to Edinburgh.

Auchendinny is an expanding community who should be receiving enhanced services not a reduction. Likewise, for Roslin residents, Morningside holds many of our local services ,jobs and amenities, put in place due to the presence of the 15 bus. The new service does not serve the needs of the growing local community and to withdraw this service would be a grave error of judgement and we oppose the move. We hereby petition Midlothian Council to recommend to the Council and Lothian Buses that they review or rescind their decision to alter the 15 and 40 Lothian

bus routes.”

- 4.3** The petition in hard copy and an online version contains a total of 408 signatures. A copy of this has been placed in the Members Library.

5 Comments from Head of Commercial Operations

- 5.1** The Head of Commercial Operations has commented that the decision taken by LRT is outwith the ambit of the Council's operation and is not one into which the Council has had any input. The decision has been taken by LRT on a solely commercial basis.

6 Report Implications

6.1 Resource

There are no resource implications arising from this report. In the event that the Committee agrees to support the petition and make recommendations to the Cabinet, the revenue implications of that decision would require to be quantified to allow the recommendation to be considered.

6.2 Risk

There are no risk implications arising from this report.

6.3 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

6.4 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

Not applicable

6.5 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

Not applicable.

6.6 Adopting a Preventative Approach

Not applicable.

6.7 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

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

6.8 Ensuring Equalities

Not applicable.

6.9 Supporting Sustainable Development

Not applicable.

6.10 IT Issues

Not applicable.

7 Recommendation

The Committee is invited to consider the petition submitted by Emma Hutt in respect of the No. 17 Bus Service.

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Report Contact:

John Ward Tel No 0131 271 3158

E-mail john.ward@midlothian.gov.uk