

**Bus Services Team
Environment and Economy
Speedwell House
Speedwell Street
Oxford OX1 1NE**

**Sue Scane
Director, Environment & Economy**

19 September 2014

**TO ALL CONSULTEES: REVIEW OF
SUBSIDISED BUS SERVICES IN VALE
OF WHITE HORSE AND SOUTH
OXFORDSHIRE AREAS**

Dear Sir/Madam

Bus services review – Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire area consultation

The current contracts for most financially-supported bus services in the Vale of White Horse and some in South Oxfordshire expire on Saturday 30 May 2015. The review of these services has now begun. As part of the review I am writing to Parish Councils, Parish Transport Representatives and County Councillors in the relevant areas along with other local interested parties to ask for their views.

Where practical, comments and ideas generated by the consultation process will be used in the preparation of new tender specifications: the returned tenders will then be evaluated and recommendations for award will be made to the Cabinet Member for Environment's March decision meeting. New services will start on **Sunday May 31 2015**. Please find attached for your information:

- Current timetables for each service under review
- Subsidy and other information for each contract, along with officers' comments on each service
- A poster for display on your parish noticeboard giving details of the review

I would be glad to receive your comments about any of these services. Local residents can also contribute their own views via the 'Respond to a Consultation' button on the home page of the Oxfordshire website (www.oxfordshire.gov.uk), or by using the following link:

<https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/Busreview2014/consultationHome>

If your parish does not currently benefit from a bus service we would also like to hear from you if there is local demand for one. However, please bear in mind that current financial circumstances dictate that few new requests will be able to be addressed. Unfortunately some reductions and withdrawals of some facilities are likely following the current review, but although some difficult decisions will inevitably need to be made a number of tools are available to maintain services while we work to reduce costs. We will be working hard to use these to good effect in an attempt to minimise service reductions and to lessen impacts on local communities.

Should community transport be of interest as a potential transport option, help is available. The County Council can provide additional support and funding for developing community transport services. Emily Lewis (Community Transport Adviser, Oxfordshire Rural Community Council) can provide guidance on setting up new CT services or advise on what may already exist in your area: you can contact Emily on **01865 883488** or e-mail her via **emily.lewis@oxonrcc.org.uk**. Alternatively, information is available online at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/communitytransport.

Responses must be received by **Friday 15 November 2014** at the very latest. In addition, all consultees are invited to local meetings, as follows:

Monday 13 October, 1.30pm-3.30pm.

Venue: Didcot Civic Hall, Civic Hall, Britwell Rd, Didcot OX11 7JN

Tuesday 14 October, 1.30pm-3.30pm

Venue: Old Town Hall, Faringdon Market Place, Faringdon SN7 7JA

Wednesday 15 October, 10.30am-12.30pm

Grove Village Hall, Main Street, Grove OX12 7JY

These meetings are for consultees to discuss the bus services being reviewed with officers from the County Council. Please feel free to drop into the meeting at any time: the officers attending will be glad to hear any comments that you may wish to make on the services under review. Refreshments will be provided.

The consultation will be conducted by electronic means where possible (i.e where an e-mail contact address exists for a parish council or PTR on our database). So far I do not have e-mail addresses for the following parish councils/Parish Transport Representatives:

Parish Councils: Eaton Hastings, Lyford

PTRs: Bourton, Buckland, East Hagbourne, Kennington, St Helen Without, Stanford in the Vale, Sunningwell

If you represent one of these localities and are happy to be contacted electronically from now on with review-related correspondence, please let me know.

If you need any further information about this review, please feel free to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,



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Assistant Public Transport Officer

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Encs.

cc County Councillors for divisions affected

Cllr David Nimmo Smith

David Buckle, Chief Executive, South and Vale District Councils

West Berkshire County Council

Buckinghamshire County Council

Rt. Hon. John Howell MP

Rt. Hon. Nicola Blackwood MP

Rt. Hon. Ed Vaizey MP

Emily Lewis, Oxfordshire Rural Communities Council

Deborah Whelan, Oxfordshire Unlimited

Hugh Jaeger, Bus Users UK