

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPORT POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL

2021 LOCAL BUS FESTIVE SERVICES

REPORT BY HEAD OF OPERATIONAL SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to advise the Panel of the outcome of a recent tender process relating to Local Bus Festive Services and consider a recommendation which will be submitted to Council Executive for approval on 16 November 2021.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Panel consider the outcome of the tender exercise for local bus festive services 2021 for submission to the Council Executive for approval on 16 November 2021.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; providing equality of opportunities; making best use of our resources; working in partnership.
II	Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	The council has a policy of supporting public transport services where resources permit. The Transport (Scotland) Act 1985 states that it is the duty of the council, in exercising their power, to conduct themselves as not to inhibit competition in the commercial market.
III	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None
IV	Impact on performance and performance Indicators	The council has a target PI for Public Transport of having 90% of residents with access to an hourly or better daytime service Monday to Saturday. Services on Festive dates do not contribute to this PI.
V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	The local bus network contributes to a number of outcomes by connecting communities with services and employment.

VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	The approved local bus budget for 2021/22 is £1.89 million. The budgeted cost for Festive Services is £43,726.
VII	Consideration at PDSP	
VIII	Other consultations	Financial Management Unit

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D.1 Background

The council has historically provided an additional level of local bus provision on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, 1 January and 2 January holidays as commercial services generally do not operate on these dates.

Regular subsidised services are also not contracted to operate on the festive dates with the exception of the 40/X40, which operates a special service. Therefore, the council tenders a specific Festive Services contract to provide a reduced service on these dates based on commercial operations however the contracted service level provided on these dates is on a reduced level.

D.2 Previous Festive Services Design

Historically, the Festive Service contract provides a 2-hourly service between 7am and 7pm with services designed as a 'hybrid' approach using a basis of the commercial market however amending and joining services to ensure as wide a coverage as possible.

In light of the COVID19 pandemic, a different approach was taken for the 2020 Festive Services contract where services were designed based on essential travel as opposed to social and leisure needs. St John's Hospital was a key component in the service design in 2020 with access to health care and essential work travel being the main focus.

With the exception of the 2020 Festive Services contract which had a greater coverage, the following areas are not normally served on the 4 festive dates:

- Bridgend (however road end served)
- Dechmont (Dobbies stops served)
- Toprhichen
- Westfield
- Philpstoun
- Breich

D.3 2021 Festive Services Design

Discussions have taken place with commercial bus operators to ascertain what, if any, commercial services will be provided on the 4 festive dates. First Bus have indicated that they will not be operating on any of the festive dates and Lothian Country have confirmed that they are planning to operate a limited commercial service on 26 December. This service level is expected to be lower than a Sunday however sufficient to ensure people can access St. John's Hospital and Livingston Centre for the main part of the day. On Sunday 2 January, at this stage, they plan on operating a normal Sunday service.

Officers have conducted an analysis of current services to identify common areas of coverage and the following additional services are recommended to operate to provide a similar service level as previous years:

Service Number	Area Coverage
275	Broxburn via Wester Inch - Blackburn, Seafield, Livingston Village, Livingston Centre, Fastlink, Pumpherston & Uphall
X27	Whitburn– Edinburgh via Blackburn, Seafield, Eliburn – Livingston Centre, Dedridge East, Mid Calder, East Calder & Wilkieston
X28	Bathgate – Edinburgh via Deans North, Knightsridge, Craigshill, Dedridge East, East Calder & Kirknewton
X38	Linlithgow – Edinburgh via Winchburgh
26	Fauldhouse – Deans via Bents, Stoneyburn, Loganlea, West Calder, Polbeth, Livingston Centre, Howden, Ladywell & Knightsridge
X25	Blackridge – Livingston via Armadale, Bathville, Bathgate, Deans North, Ladywell East & Alderstone Rd

Consistent with previous standard Festive Services networks, this will provide coverage in all areas except Bridgend, Dechmont, Torphichen, Westfield, Philpstoun and Breich.

D.4 Outcome of Tender Exercise

A tender exercise has been completed where operators were invited to bid for the selected services on both an hourly and 2-hourly basis. The cost of providing these options largely dictate what level of service can be provided, however, it is important that the council does not provide a better level of service on festive dates than that of a normal Sunday timetable.

The outcome of the tender exercise with 1st ranked operator for each option is contained within Appendix 1.

D.4 Financial Implications

The budgeted cost for Local Bus Festive Services for 2021 is £43,726. The outcome of the tender exercise has confirmed there is not sufficient budget to provide an hourly service level. It is therefore recommended that officers confirm and award the services on a 2-hourly basis at a total cost of £34,520.00. This would provide a service level and coverage consistent with previous standard festive services networks.

E. CONCLUSION

The council is required to consider services for local bus services on the festive dates for 2021. Officers have designed a festive service network in line with previous service levels and frequencies. A tender exercise has been completed and proposed services can be met within the available budget at a 2-hourly frequency.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Outcome of Tender Exercise

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9 November 2021

Appendix 1 – Outcome of Tender Exercise

Operator	Service	Areas	Days of operation			
			25-Dec	26-Dec	01-Jan	02-Jan
First Bus	X25	Blackridge – Livingston via Armadale, Bathville, Bathgate, Deans North, Ladywell East & Alderstone Rd	X	N/A	X	N/A
First Bus	26	Fauldhouse – Deans via Bents, Stoneyburn, Loganlea, West Calder, Polbeth, Livingston Centre, Howden, Ladywell & Knightsridge	X	N/A	X	N/A
First Bus	X38	Linlithgow – Edinburgh via Winchburgh	X	X	X	X
Lothian Country	X27	Whitburn– Edinburgh via Blackburn, Seafield, Eliburn – Livingston Centre, Dedridge East, Mid Calder, East Calder & Wilkieston	X	N/A	X	N/A
Lothian Country	X28	Bathgate – Edinburgh via Deans North, Knightsridge, Craigshill, Dedridge East, East Calder & Kirknewton	X	N/A	X	N/A
Lothian Country	275	Bathgate – Broxburn via Wester Inch - Blackburn, Seafield, Livingston Village, Livingston Centre, Fastlink, Pumpherston & Uphall	X	N/A	X	N/A
Lothian Country	276 Extension	Extension to include Stoneyburn, Bents and West Calder	N/A	X	N/A	X

Option 1: Hourly	£55,100.00
Option 2: 2 Hourly	£34,520.00