



Proposed amendments to subsidised local bus services

Committee Operations

Date of meeting 26 August 2016

Date of report 16 August 2016

Report by Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

1. **Object of report**

To advise the Committee of amendments to the following local bus service contracts:

Hairmyres Hospital - East Kilbride - Hamilton - Torr Farm (service 205)

Johnstone - Howwood - Lochwinnoch (service 307)

Bishopton Local/Bishopton - Erskine (services 520/521)

Johnstone - Bridge of Weir - Linwood (service X6A)

Law - Wishaw - Airdrie/Monklands Hospital (service 248A/B)

Newton Stewart - Girvan (service 359)

Wishaw General Hospital - Holytown (service 248)

Law - Wishaw - Airdrie/Monklands Hospital (service 248A/B)

Wishaw Local (Coltness - Wishaw - Netherton) (service 93)

Parkside - Cleland - Wishaw - Pather (service 193)

Rutherglen - Cathkin - Cairns (service 165)

Kirkintilloch - Milngavie (service 47/A)

Croy - Twechar - Kilsyth (service 344/A)

Shawlands - Clarkston - Silverburn (service 374)

Brodick – Corriegills (service 321)

This report affects the East Dunbartonshire, East Renfrewshire, Glasgow City, North Ayrshire, North Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire, South Ayrshire and South Lanarkshire council areas.

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2. Background

(a) Hairmyres Hospital – East Kilbride – Hamilton – Torr Farm (service 205)

Service 205 is operated on behalf of SPT by First Glasgow, providing an hourly, Monday to Saturday daytime service between Hairmyres Hospital and Torr Farm via East Kilbride and Hamilton within contract W039D2.

SPT was made aware of indiscriminate parking issues at the junction of Millgate Road and Buchan Street, Fairhill which were obstructing the route of service 205. In order to alleviate the consequential safety implications, the route of service 205 was altered to omit this section of the route, whilst continuing to service all existing bus stops, effective from 7 August 2016.

Action

SPT altered the route of service 205, within contract W039D2, with effect from 7 August 2016. No additional costs apply.

(b) Johnstone – Howwood – Lochwinnoch (service 307)

Service 307 is operated on behalf of SPT by Wilsons Buses, providing an hourly, Monday to Saturday evening and all day Sunday service between Johnstone and Lochwinnoch via Howwood within contract W085B.

The long term closure of Main Street, Lochwinnoch to facilitate the construction of a new bridge required that the route of service 307 was altered to operate via Lochlip Road and Church Street, effective from 31 May 2016, for an estimated period of 5 months.

Action

SPT altered the route of service 307 within contract W085B, with effect from 31 May 2016, for an estimated period of 5 months. No additional costs apply.

(c) Bishopton Local / Bishopton – Erskine (services 520/521)

Wilson's Buses was awarded contract 5627K to operate subsidised services 520/521, which provides an hourly, Monday to Saturday daytime service within Bishopton as service 520, and an hourly, Monday to Saturday daytime service between Bishopton and Erskine Bridgewater Shopping Centre as service 521, for the contract period 17 July 2016 until 13 July 2019. This contract was awarded at SPT Operations Committee on 6 November 2015.

McGill's Buses notified SPT of its intention to operate, without subsidy, an hourly, Monday to Saturday daytime service within Bishopton as service 520, and an hourly, Monday to Saturday daytime service between Bishopton and Erskine Bridgewater Shopping Centre as service 521, effective from 18 July 2016.

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As a consequence of McGill's Buses decision to operate services 520 and 521 from 18 July 2016 without subsidy, SPT suspended contract 5627K with effect from 17 July 2016.

(d) Johnstone – Bridge of Weir - Linwood (service X6A)

Gibson Direct was awarded contract W048D to operate subsidised service X6A, which provides an hourly, daily evening service between Johnstone and Linwood via Bridge of Weir, for the contract period 17 July 2016 until 13 July 2019. This contract was awarded at SPT Operations Committee on 11 March 2016.

McGill's Buses notified SPT of its intention to operate, without subsidy, an hourly, daily, evening service between Johnstone and Glasgow via Bridge of Weir and Linwood as service X7, effective from 17 July 2016.

Action

As a consequence of McGill's Buses decision to operate service X7 from 17 July 2016 without subsidy, SPT suspended contract W048D with effect from 17 July 2016.

(e) Law – Wishaw – Airdrie / Monklands Hospital (service 248A/B)

Service 248A/B is operated on behalf of SPT by Stuarts Coaches, providing Monday to Friday daytime journeys between Wishaw and Airdrie as service 248A and between Law and Airdrie/Monklands Hospital via Wishaw as service 248B, within contract W010C.

With effect from 8 August 2016, Stuarts Coaches withdrew a Monday to Friday early afternoon journey of commercial service 240X between Wishaw General Hospital and Law. SPT determined that this change would adversely affect service levels within Law Village and, as a consequence, SPT revised the timetable of services 248A/B, to divert an existing Monday to Friday early afternoon journey, via Wishaw General Hospital and Law as service 248C.

Action

SPT altered the route and timetable of service 248A/B within contract W010C, with effect from 7 August 2016. These alterations incur additional mileage, and as a consequence the contract cost has increased by £2,956 per annum.

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(f) Newton Stewart – Girvan (service 359)

SPT contributes financially to cross-boundary service 359, which is administered contractually by Dumfries and Galloway Council within contract SW/14/359/2, and is operated by Western Buses. Service 359 provided a Monday to Saturday, daytime service between Newton Stewart and Girvan via Glentroof, Barrhill, Pinwherry and Pinmore, and also two return trips on a Sunday between Newton Stewart and Girvan via Glentroof, Barrhill, Pinwherry, Colmonell and Pinmore. Service 359 also incorporates home to school transport provision for Douglas Ewart School, Newton Stewart and Girvan Academy.

Dumfries and Galloway Council notified SPT of its intention to make budget savings through the removal of the Sunday element of service 359, effective from 30 May 2016. Subsequent analysis confirmed low patronage on these particular journeys and their withdrawal has reduced operational mileage, leading to a reduction in contract cost of £9,477 per annum. SPT's contribution has therefore decreased by £3,222 per annum.

Action

Dumfries and Galloway Council altered the timetable of service 359 within contract SW/14/359/2, with effect from 30 May 2016. These alterations reduce operational mileage and as a consequence SPT's contribution has decreased by £62 per week, equivalent to £3,222 per annum.

(g) Wishaw General Hospital – Holytown (service 248)

Service 248 is operated on behalf of SPT by McGill's Buses, providing a Monday to Saturday evening service between Wishaw General Hospital and Holytown via Pather, Cleland, Parkside and Newarthill within the contract for Central Lanarkshire DRT services, 9561F.

Following the closure of Biggar Road, Cleland to facilitate railway bridge repair works, the route of service 248 was altered to operate via Bellside Road, A73 and Windyedge Road, effective from 8 August 2016, for an estimated period of 4 months.

Action

SPT altered the route and timetable of service 248 within contract 9561F, with effect from 7 August 2016. The alterations incur additional mileage and as a consequence the contract cost has increased by £110 per week for the duration of the works, equivalent to £5,731 per annum.

(h) Law – Wishaw – Airdrie / Monklands Hospital (service 248A/B)

Service 248A/B is operated on behalf of SPT by Stuarts Coaches, providing Monday to Friday daytime journeys between Wishaw and Airdrie as service 248A, and between Law and Airdrie/Monklands Hospital via Wishaw as service 248B, within contract W010C.

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Following the closure of Biggar Road, Cleland to facilitate railway bridge repair works, the route of service 248A/B was altered to operate via Bellside Road, A73 and Windyedge Road, effective from 8 August 2016, for an estimated period of around 4 months.

Action

SPT altered the route and timetable of service 248A/B within contract W010C, with effect from 8 August 2016. The alterations incur additional mileage and as a consequence the contract cost has increased by £93 per week for the duration of the works, equivalent to £4,832 per annum.

(i) Wishaw Local (Coltness - Wishaw – Netherton) (service 93) Parkside – Cleland – Wishaw – Pather (service 193)

Services 93 and 193 are operated on behalf of SPT by First Glasgow, providing an hourly, Monday to Saturday daytime service between Coltness, and Netherton via Wishaw and Wishaw General Hospital as service 93, and an hourly, all day Sunday service between Parkside and Pather via Cleland, Wishaw and Wishaw General Hospital as service 193, within contract W008B3.

Following the closure of Biggar Road, Cleland to facilitate railway bridge repair works, the route of service 193 was altered to operate via Bellside Road, A73 and Windyedge Road, effective from 8 August 2016, for an estimated period of 4 months.

Action

SPT altered the route and timetable of service 193 within contract W008B3, with effect from 14 August 2016, the first effective day for this Sunday only service. The alterations incur additional mileage and as a consequence the contract cost has increased by £33 per week for the duration of the works, equivalent to £1,704 per annum.

(j) Rutherglen – Cathkin – Cairns (service 165)

Service 165 is operated on behalf of SPT by McGill's Buses, providing an hourly, Monday to Saturday evening and all day Sunday service between Rutherglen and Cairns via Cathkin, within contract LS083G.

Following the closure of a section of Dukes Road, Rutherglen to facilitate Scottish Water improvement works, the route of service 165 was altered to operate via Glenside Drive and Calderwood Road, effective from 3 August 2016, for an estimated period of 5 months.

Action

SPT altered the route and timetable of service 165 within contract LS083G, with effect from 3 August 2016. No additional costs apply.

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(k) Kirkintilloch – Milngavie (service 47/A)

Service 47/A is operated on behalf of SPT by McGill's Buses, providing an hourly, Monday to Saturday daytime service between Milngavie and Kirkintilloch via Torrance, within contract W064A.

McGill's Buses requested that SPT adjust the timetable and route of service 47/A, to facilitate through journeys between Milngavie and Cumbernauld, thereby removing the need for interchange with commercial service 247. SPT deemed this request to be of benefit to the travelling public and will implement minor timetable and route alterations, effective from 28 August 2016. The SPT vehicle allocated to this contract will be redeployed to an alternative contract held by this operator.

Action

SPT will alter the timetable and route of service 47/A, within contract W064A, with effect from 28 August 2016. No additional costs apply.

(l) Croy – Twechar – Kilsyth (service 344/A)

Service 344/A is operated on behalf of SPT by McGill's Buses, providing a Monday to Saturday morning and evening service, and an hourly, all day Sunday service between Croy and Kilsyth, via Blackwood and Twechar, and a hourly, Monday to Saturday daytime service between Croy and Blackwood, within contract W021C and the contract for Lanarkshire DRT services 9603D.

With effect from 22 August 2016, Midland Bluebird network changes resulted in a gap in bus service provision within Banton and areas of east Kilsyth on evenings and Sundays. To address the gap in Sunday provision, SPT revised the route and timetable of service 344/A, to provide an hourly, Sunday service between Croy and Banton via Blackwood, Twechar and Kilsyth, operated within contract W021C. Contract W021C is operated on a gross cost basis, and as such, all revenues collected on these extended journeys will be retained by SPT, and this will be offset against the additional cost to the revenue budget.

To address the remaining Monday to Saturday evening gap in provision, SPT now contributes financially to cross-boundary service 4B, administered contractually by Falkirk Council, as referred to this Committee within a separate paper.

SPT took the opportunity to remove pick up and drop off restrictions between Queenzieburn and Kilsyth previously imposed on this and other services, as a result of commercial operations in the area.

Action

SPT will alter the route and timetable of service 344/A within contract W021C, with effect from 28 August 2016. The alterations incur additional mileage and as a consequence the contract cost has increased by £107 per week, equivalent to £5,567 per annum.

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(m) Shawlands – Clarkston – Silverburn (service 374)

Service 374 is operated on behalf of SPT by Glasgow Citybus, providing an hourly Monday to Saturday daytime service between Shawlands and Silverburn, via The Victoria Infirmary, Merrylee, Clarkston and Eastwood Toll, within contract W097C.

Following a passenger enquiry, SPT will revise the timetable of service 374, to offer enhanced provision within Ashmore Road, Merrylee on non-school days, from 10 October 2016.

Action

SPT will alter the timetable of service 374, within contract W097C, with effect from 10 October 2016. No additional costs apply.

(n) Brodick – Corriegills (service 321)

Service 321 is operated on behalf of SPT by Western Buses, providing a return journey between Brodick – Corriegills on schooldays for both pupils in receipt of free home to school transport and also local service passengers, within contract 6628J.

North Ayrshire Council has indicated that the furthest point on the route, Corriegills, is no longer required for the transportation of school pupils and patronage analysis confirms no local service passengers utilise this stop. SPT has therefore arranged for the route of the service to be curtailed at Corriegills Road End, which also facilitates an easier turning manoeuvre.

Action

SPT will alter the route of service 321, within contract 6628J, with effect from 25 October 2016. No additional costs apply.

3. Committee action

The Committee is recommended to agree to the following:

- (a) alteration to the route of service 205, within contract W039D2, with effect from 7 August 2016, no additional costs apply;
- (b) alteration to the route of service 307, within contract W085B, with effect from 31 May 2016, no additional costs apply;
- (c) suspension of contract 5627K, with effect from 17 July 2016, no additional costs apply;
- (d) suspension of contract W048D, with effect from 17 July 2016, no additional costs apply;
- (e) alteration to the route and timetable of service 248A/B, within contract W010C, with effect from 7 August 2016, at an additional cost of £2,956 per annum;

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- (f) alteration to the timetable of service 359, within Dumfries and Galloway Contract SW/14/359/2, with effect from 30 May 2016, at a reduced cost of £3,222 per annum;
 - (g) alteration to the route and timetable of service 248, within contract 9561F, with effect from 7 August 2016, at an additional cost of £5,731 per annum;
 - (h) alteration to the route and timetable of service 248A/B, within contract W010C, with effect from 8 August 2016, at an additional cost of £4,832 per annum;
 - (i) alteration to the route and timetable of service 193, within contract W008B3, with effect from 14 August 2016, at an additional cost of £1,704 per annum;
 - (j) alteration to the route and timetable of service 165, within contract LS083G, with effect from 3 August 2016, no additional costs apply;
 - (k) alteration to the route and timetable of service 47/A, within contract W064A, with effect from 28 August 2016, no additional costs apply;
 - (l) alteration to the route and timetable of service 344/A, within contract W021C, with effect from 28 August 2016, at an additional cost of £5,567 per annum;
 - (m) alteration to the timetable of service 374, within contract W097C, with effect from 10 October 2016, no additional costs apply;
- and
- (n) alteration to the route of service 321, within contract 6628J, with effect from 25 October 2016, no additional costs apply.

4. Consequences

Policy consequences: *In line with Regional Transport Strategy.*

Legal consequences: *Proposed amendments are permitted in terms of the conditions of contract.*

Financial consequences: *The amendments to contracts detailed in the committee paper will result in savings of £36,865 to SPT in 2016/17.*

Personnel consequences: *None.*

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Equalities consequences: *Seeks to reduce the incidence of social exclusion by supporting socially necessary services.*

Risk consequences: *None.*

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