

Subject:	Supported Bus Service Network – Exempt Category 3 – Extract from the proceedings of the Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on the 12th July 2012.		
Date of Meeting:	19 July 2012		
Report of:	Strategic Director; Resources		
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Wards Affected:	All		

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE**4.00 pm 12 July 2012****COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL****DRAFT MINUTES**

Present: Councillor J Kitcat (Chair) Councillors Littman (Deputy Chair), Hamilton, Mitchell, A Norman, Peltzer Dunn, Shanks, G Theobald (Opposition Spokesperson), Wakefield and West.

PART TWO**45. SUPPORTED BUS SERVICES NETWORK – UPDTE - EXEMPT CATEGORY 3**

- 45.5 The Strategic Director; Place introduced the report and explained that following the Committee's decision in June in approving the award of the contracts for the Supported Bus Service Network, it had come to light that an administrative error had been made which affected the No.52 service. The contract had been recommended for award to Brighton & Hove Bus Company; however the basis for the recommendation had been on the whole route and not the alternative shorter route, for which the Big Lemon tender was cheaper and therefore should have been awarded accordingly. He could only apologise for the error and ask that the committee agree to rectify it and award the contract to the Big Lemon Bus Company.
- 45.6 The Strategic Director also noted that as a result of the award to the Big Lemon, a saving was generated and this together with some additional savings and conformation from the bus companies meant that the previous services that would have ceased would continue to operate. The only route that remained unavailable was the longer part of the No.52.
- 45.7 The Chair stated that the error was unfortunate but along with the procurement process that had been undertaken did have a positive outcome which had to be welcomed. He

also noted that in respect of the school routes, there was a need to be clear to parents and children that a 1 year procurement process would be undertaken and that the routes would be subject to further review.

- 45.8 Councillor Mitchell welcomed the report and stated that she believed matters had moved a long way and noted that the bus company would be continuing to provide winter and evening services. However, she was still concerned about the No.52 and questioned why the route had been split as part of the tender process. She believed that Brighton & Hove Bus Company had offered to run the service into the city centre via the Bristol Estate and felt that this needed to be addressed. At present it meant that there would still be no service out to Woodingdean. She also queried whether the all-through ticketing would apply to the Big Lemon and whether it was able to provide vehicles with low-floor accessibility, which she believed was a requirement of the contract and would also be part of the real-time table-table.
- 45.9 The Strategic Director; Place confirmed that both the low-floor and real-time elements were requirements of the contract. He was not clear about whether an offer had been made to run the No.52 via the Bristol Estate and through-ticketing would apply to those routes that were subsidised under the new contracts.
- 45.10 Councillor Ann Norman queried whether the Big Lemon Bus Company had been unwilling to tender for the longer No.52 route.
- 45.11 The Strategic Director; Place confirmed that because of the added costs for the longer route, the Big Lemon had only tendered for the shorter route; as had the company been successful it would have impacted on their financial standing as a company.
- 45.12 The Chair stated that he wished to thank the officers involved in the process for their work and believed that it had been beneficial to keep to the outcome of the procurement process. He then put the recommendations to the vote.
- 45.13 **RESOLVED:**
- (1) That notwithstanding the decision taken on the 14th June 2012, having considered the further information that had come to light, the contract for bus service 52 terminating at the Marina be awarded to The Big Lemon, and not to Brighton and Hove Buses;
 - (2) That the school bus routes 74 and 96 be retendered for 1 year as set out in paragraphs 3.5 and 3.6 of the report and funded from one-off risk provisions in the budget; and
 - (3) That the over-achievement of savings of £60,000 per year be earmarked to fund the winter Sunday evening services 21B and 81A and the 81 Monday to Saturday evening services.

Note: The above item was taken with the agreement of the Chair as a matter of urgency as information had come to light in regard to the proposed award of a contract in relation to the Supported Bus Services Network, which had also meant that the item and report had not been included on the agenda or available at the time of despatch.