

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

28th March 2011

NOTICE OF MOTION – BUS SERVICE CONSULTATION RESPONSE

Relevant Portfolio Holder(s)	Cllr J Pearce
Relevant Head of Service	Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services
Not a Key Decision	

The following Urgent Notice of Motion has been received and accepted for consideration by the Mayor:

Preamble:

As Members will be aware we are currently in a period of consultation with the Worcestershire County Council in relation to proposed changes and reductions to bus services across the County and more specifically for us throughout the Borough of Redditch. Given the timescales involved in this process and the need for us to respond by the end of March I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Mayor for allowing this Notice of Motion to be debated and I think I speak for all members when I acknowledge this exception to the normal rule on Notices of Motion during an election period. That said this is a cross party motion and one that has already been aired within the community through work undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The results of this exercise will be sent to the County alongside this motion if agreed.

Motion:

Therefore - *“We call on members to join with me and the [Leader of the Labour Group](#) and the [Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group](#) in calling on the County Council to acknowledge the needs of the residents of Redditch. Redditch is a town that was designed very specifically around the transportation needs of its communities and the vision that public transport would play a pivotal role in the day to day lives of its residents. We have dedicated bus-only routes serving our communities which were all designed on the basis that this would remain a dedicated and exclusive bus infrastructure that services district centres within the Borough and provide a lifeline to those persons who reside there.*

The removal of the bus services that operate within these areas would significantly undermine both the purpose of this vision and the independence of the residents who live there, particularly those with disabilities.

Both the residents and elected members of Redditch Borough acknowledge the challenge that all Councils are facing in these very difficult financial times –

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indeed we have been forced to examine difficult decisions ourselves – but I would ask for all Members to support us in calling on the County Council to consider, when making their decision on the bus services, the very special character and history of Redditch Borough and the disproportionate impact that these proposals will have on our residents. We would also ask them to meet with representatives of this authority to discuss how these changes can be minimised and that they make the impact assessments that have been carried out on these reduced services available for public inspection. “

Proposed by: Cllr

Supported by: Cllr

Cllr

The above Notice of Motion missed the notification period required under Standing Order 6. However, the item has been accepted by the Mayor as Urgent Business for tonight's Council meeting, on the basis of its broad public interest and the fact that there is not a further ordinary Council meeting before the close of the consultation period on these proposals which could receive the Motion. Furthermore, because of the pre-election Political Restrictions and in accordance with constitutional requirements, it is essential this remain a cross-party Notice of Motion.