

**To:** Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board

**On:** 24 August 2020

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**Report by:** Lead Officer

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**Heading:** Review of Bus Deregulation and Effect on Transport Services in Renfrewshire

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 The Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board of 28 May 2019 agreed the purpose and scope of a review on bus deregulation and the effect on transport services within Renfrewshire. This report provides an update on the review in the context of the Covid-19 outbreak.
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## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Board:
- (i) Notes the significant change in the landscape of public transport and particularly bus services as a result of the Covid outbreak;
  - (ii) Agrees that the review is continued to allow future consideration of the impact of the Covid outbreak on bus services in Renfrewshire.
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## **3. Background**

- 3.1 The Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board of 28 May 2019 agreed the purpose and scope of a review on bus deregulation and the effect on transport services within Renfrewshire.

- 3.2 Findings of the review have been presented to meetings of the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board over a period of months. At the meeting of 16 March 2020 the Board requested that the Lead Officer provide further information from the Traffic Commissioner to inform the final report.

#### **4 Impact of Covid Outbreak**

- 4.1 Since the meeting of 16 March 2020 the landscape of public transport and particularly bus services has changed significantly as a result of the Covid outbreak. The situation remains in a state of flux and resources are being directed to ensuring the running of essential services, passenger safety and support to operators.
- 4.2 As a result, to date it has not been possible to source information requested by the Board to inform the final report. Further, it is considered many of the issues previously identified within the review, for example traffic congestion affecting the efficient running of bus services, are now less relevant in the current circumstances.
- 4.3 In view of this and given that the landscape around bus services is likely to change further in the coming months, it is proposed to continue the review until the future operation of services becomes more clear.
- 4.4 Continuing the review would provide an opportunity for the impact of the Covid outbreak on bus services to be assessed at the appropriate time and for recommendations emerging from the review to be considered further in this context.

#### **5 Next Steps**

- 5.1 The next stage will be reported to a future meeting of the Board once additional information to support the review becomes available.

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#### **Implications of the Report**

1. **Financial** - None
2. **HR & Organisational Development** - None
3. **Community/Council Planning** – None
4. **Legal** - None
5. **Property/Assets** - None
6. **Information Technology** - None
7. **Equality & Human Rights** - None

- (a) The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.

- 8. **Health & Safety** - None
- 9. **Procurement** - None
- 10. **Risk** - None
- 11. **Privacy Impact** - None
- 12. **Cosla Policy Position** - None
- 13. **Climate Risk** - None

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#### **List of Background Papers**

None

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