

Record of decision taken under delegated powers by a council officer



Title:	Surrey County Council Response to Covid: providing support to service providers – Bus route 461
Divisions Affected:	Elmbridge, Runnymede (and the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames)
Key Decision:	Yes
Reason Key:	Affects two or more Divisions
Decision taken under delegation by virtue of:	Cabinet decision 31 March 2020 Min ref: 41/20

Summary

Bus route 461 is a key route to St Peter's Hospital normally running every 30min. The operator reduced it to hourly, then every two hours, due to falling fare income as a result of fewer passengers as a result of Covid-19. The council received complaints that the reduced service was not supporting key workers to access an NHS primary care facility, not supporting the hospital shift patterns, and causing problems with self-distancing due to crowding. In order to maintain an acceptable service and support the NHS, an additional payment has been negotiated on the basis that that the 461 bus service continues to run once an hour.

Decision made

Decision made:

It was AGREED that:

1. Financial support of £450 per day (estimated at £33k) be provided to Falcon Buses to support route 461 for three months from April to June 2020.

Reasons for Decision:

To enable continuation of bus services taking key NHS workers to St Peter's Hospital.

Decision taken by:	Katie Stewart – Executive Director ETI Matt Furniss – Cabinet Member for Highways
Decision taken on:	15 th April 2020
To be implemented on:	Payments backdated to 01/04/2020

Alternative options considered

The alternative is not to provide financial support. The supplier had already reduced the frequency of services due to reduced patronage and fares, which gave rise to the issue.

Summary of any financial implications

Additional costs expected to be c.£33k until 30th June 2020. In the first instance attempts will be made to contain costs within the existing budget envelope, or additional funding provided by government.

Declarations of conflicts of interest

None

(list any conflict of interest declared by a Cabinet Member who is consulted by the officer which relates to the decision and, in respect of any declared conflict of interest, any note of dispensation granted by the head of paid service).

Consultation/Process Followed

Decision taken in consultation with Cabinet Member for Highways.



RE Decision to provide support to l

(If delegation required consultation to take place with, for example, a Cabinet Member, include details here).

Background Documents

Exempt:

Cabinet report 31st March 2020 setting out the council's response to Covid-19.