



Minutes of the Special Meeting of the HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Held: THURSDAY, 6 FEBRUARY 2003 at 5.30pm

<u>PRESENT:</u>

<u>Councillor Kamal - Chair</u> <u>Councillor Thompson - Conservative Spokesperson</u>

Councillor Blackmore (for Cllr Metcalfe) Councillor Henry (for Cllr Honiball) Councillor Chohan Councillor Newitt

Also in Attendance

Councillor Bhatti – Cabinet Lead Member for Highways and Transportation

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74. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were invited to declare any interests they might have in the business on the agenda and/or indicate if Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applied to them.

No such declarations were made at this time.

75. REDUCTIONS IN SUPPORTED BUS SERVICES

The Service Director of Highways and Transportation submitted a report that advised and consulted members regarding proposals to withdraw a number of supported bus services, in order to reduce expenditure. Prior to the meeting, further information on all current City Council supported bus services, together with feedback received from members and the public, was circulated for information.

Officers reported that the report had been brought to members as a result of the current ongoing Budget Strategy and of the fact that in the past the supported bus service budget had been, in effect, demand led. This situation could no longer be tolerated and savings of £330, 000 were being sought by the reduction of supported bus services identified in the report. Officers reported that the savings identified were to be utilised on the enhancement of the existing Dial-a-Ride service and a reserve to support future requirements.

Members considered the information contained in the reports and came to the conclusion that three options were available to them: -

- i) Accept officers recommendations to cut the services identified
- ii) Accept partially the officers recommendations; or,
- iii) Reject the recommendations.

The Scrutiny Committee were unanimously of the opinion that the recommendations of the officers be rejected and that Cabinet be asked to identify sources to fund the £330,000 required to maintain the current level of supported bus services, at a time when the use of public transport is being actively promoted nationally.

RESOLVED:

- i) that the recommendations of the officers to cut a number of supported bus services be rejected.
- ii) that Cabinet be asked to identify sources to fund the £330,000 required to maintain the current level of supported bus services.