

## ASSISTANT DIRECTOR DECISION

**Decision:**

On 25<sup>th</sup> September, the Assistant Director of Transport, Highways and the Environment, in consultation with the Executive Member for Transport made the decision to fund the operation of services 3A (York-Askham Bar) and 12 (Alness Drive-Bellhouse Way) until 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020 and carry out a tender process to establish the long term cost of operating the 12 service.

Following completion of the tender process, the Assistant Director is requested to:

- 1) approve the extension of the current short-term arrangements for services 3A and 12 until 4<sup>th</sup> April 2020; and
- 2) a report will be prepared for Executive to consider their long term funding given the annual cost is greater than the budget.

<b>Type of Decision:</b> Officer	Key		Non-Key	X
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**Portfolio Area that decision relates to:**

Leader (inc Policy etc)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Culture, Leisure & Comms	
Deputy Leader & Transport	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Health, Adult social care	
Environment & Climate C	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education & Young People	
Economy & Strategic P	<input type="checkbox"/>	Housing & Safer Neighb.	

**Background**

Services 3A and 12 are local bus services which, until 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019, were operated commercially by First York without financial support from City of York Council.

Service 3A is an evening service, operating 7 days per week between the city centre and Askham Bar Park & Ride, serving all bus stops (unlike the daytime Park & Ride service which is limited-stop). A Friday-evening Park & Ride service was launched in 2018, with financial support from York BID. Following its success on the run up to Christmas, First brought in a seven-day per week evening service from January 2019. Similar evening services on the Rawcliffe Bar and Designer Outlet routes have proven financially viable, but the 3A has not had the same level of success.

Service 12 is a Mon-Sat daytime service connecting Foxwood Lane, Moor Lane, Woodthorpe, Askham Bar, the city centre, Heworth and Monks Cross. Service 12 originally terminated on Moor Lane near the southern end of Alness Drive. First extended the route commercially along Alness Drive as far as Foxwood Lane in 2013, but in 2019 advised us that passenger numbers mean this section of the route is no longer commercially viable.

First York planned to cancel service 3A, and the section of service 12 which connects Bellhouse Way, Acomb Wood Drive and Alness Drive with the city centre and Monks Cross, with effect from 29<sup>th</sup> September 2019. City of York Council agreed temporary funding for both services until 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020.

Unless action is taken by the council, route 3A and the western end of route 12 will cease to operate, potentially as early as 2<sup>nd</sup> February. A fully compliant tender process has been carried out and the winning bidder is prepared to provide an equivalent service to the existing route 12 (with vehicles meeting the Clean Air Zone emissions requirement) for approx. £65k per annum.

The council is in the process of installing access control barriers at Askham Bar and Monks Cross Park & Ride sites. One of the benefits of the new barrier system will be to permit secure overnight parking at these two sites. It is reasonable to assume that retaining the late evening bus service would help grow demand for the new overnight parking offer. This is in line with the new Council Plan commitment to review potential to extend operation of Park and Ride sites.

Due to the need to serve the Park & Ride site, which is leased exclusively to First York, it is not possible to seek competitive prices for service 3A. First York are prepared to continue operating the service 7 days per week at a cost of £66.84 per day, which includes the cost of keeping the Askham Bar site open until after the last bus of the evening.

The cost of operating both services from 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb until 31<sup>st</sup> March would be £14,800 (£4k for service 3A and £10.8k for service 12), which is within budget for the 2019/20 financial year.

The cost of operating both services throughout 2020/21 and subsequent financial years would be £88,700 per annum (£24k for service 3A and £64.7k for service 12), which exceeds the anticipated subsidised bus budget for 2020/21 by around £26k. It is therefore not possible to fund both services beyond 4<sup>th</sup> April 2020 from within the budget.

The subsidy cost per passenger is around £1.70 for service 3A and around £1.60 for service 12. Both therefore meet the council's criteria (less than £2.67 per passenger).

<b>Implications:</b> Crime & Disorder	<input type="checkbox"/>	Equalities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other: Transport X	
Human Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	Legal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Highways	<input type="checkbox"/>
Financial	<input type="checkbox"/>	ITT	<input type="checkbox"/>	Property	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Decision Date:** 1 Feb 2020

<b>Wards Affected:</b>							
All Wards	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fishergate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Holgate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rural West York	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acomb	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fulford & Heslington	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hull Road	<input type="checkbox"/>	Strensall	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bishopthorpe	<input type="checkbox"/>	Guildhall	<input type="checkbox"/>	Huntington & New Earswick	<input type="checkbox"/>	Westfield	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clifton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Haxby & Wigginton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Micklegate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wheldrake	<input type="checkbox"/>
Copmanthorpe	<input type="checkbox"/>	Heworth	<input type="checkbox"/>	Osbalwick & Derwent	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Dringhouses & Woodthorpe	<input type="checkbox"/>	Heworth Without	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rawcliffe & Clifton	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

**Comments/Observations:**  
The solution is within financial affordability and has been made in consultation with the Executive Member for Transport.

**Decision Made by:** James Gilchrist, Assistant Director Transport, Highways and Environment in consultation with the Executive Member for Transport & Planning.

**Contact Details:** Directorate of Economy and Place, West Offices  
Tel No: 01904 552547, email: james.gilchrist@york.gov.uk

**On behalf of:** Neil Ferris, Corporate Director of Economy and Place

**To be implemented by:** Sustainable Transport Team

**On Completion – Signed off by:**

**Date:** 01.02.20

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of three distinct, stylized characters or initials.

**Assistant Director Transport Highways and Environment**