

## Record of officer decision

<b>Decision title:</b>	<b>Temporary public transport network arrangements during period of COVID-19 emergency measures</b>
<b>Date of decision:</b>	1 April 2020
<b>Decision maker:</b>	Director for Economy & Place
<b>Authority for delegated decision:</b>	1. In line with section 3.7.9 all necessary decisions in the case of emergencies of the constitution.
<b>Ward:</b>	Countywide
<b>Consultation:</b>	<p>Emergency consultation with senior council officers including public health.</p> <p>Consultation with all Herefordshire public transport operators.</p> <p>All Members and a range of stakeholders were consulted on the review of the bus network carried out in 2014 which identified the core network. Members were also consulted during the Passenger Transport Review reported to Cabinet in April 2017 which set out the approach to the provision of services for public transport.</p>
<b>Decision made:</b>	<p>To operate a minimum service level of the core bus network during the COVID-19 outbreak emergency response as illustrated in appendix 1 below.</p> <p>To utilise remaining available contracted bus services to operate additional routes with the aim of supporting key worker journeys and opportunities for vulnerable members of the community (many of whom will hold a bus pass) to access food and medical services during the COVID-19 outbreak emergency response.</p> <p>Service demands will be monitored and further amendments may be made in response to ensure that bus services are focused on supporting key workers and vulnerable members of the community.</p> <p>It is anticipated that these temporary measures will be required until at least the end of June 2020 at which point a further decision may be required.</p> <p>For contracts which are normally payable quarterly in arrears we will make monthly payments in arrears helping alleviate cashflow challenges for operators.</p> <p>The public bus network in Herefordshire, both subsidised and commercial has seen a dramatic decline in passenger numbers following Government instruction to stay at home, and maintain social distancing during the COVID-19 outbreak. Services have seen passenger numbers as low as 3% of normal levels and are not sustainable as commercial routes. To support bus operators by assisting them to reduce operating costs whilst maintaining a suitable public transport network council contracted services have been redeployed to operate the core bus network. This will ensure operators receive adequate income to operate the routes whilst at the same time ensuring a suitable network is available for key workers and vulnerable members of the community.</p> <p>The core bus network is defined in the council's Local Transport Plan (LTP) as the minimum level of service that will be provided. The network ensures links between market towns and Hereford City and a range of</p>

	<p>supporting routes which connect major villages with Hereford and the market towns. The core network also ensures the main arterial routes in to Hereford City are served by regular services. In summary this will provide:</p> <p>2 hourly services between Hereford and each market town and main villages operating between 0730 and 1830 Monday to Saturday, no Sunday services will operate with the exception of service 33 Hereford – Ross on Wye</p> <p>After re-deploying contracted services to cover the core network an amount of vehicle capacity remained available for use. This was allocated to operate other priority town services as listed in point 2.</p> <p><b>Hereford City services</b>  71B – Hereford / Credenhill  74 – Hereford / Newton Farm  77A – Hereford / Holmer circular  78 – Hereford / Rotherwas  78A - Hereford / Rotherwas  78X - Hereford / Rotherwas  79A – Hereford / Putson / Redhill  477 – Hereford / Canon Pyon</p> <p><b>Leominster Town services</b>  401 - Leominster town circular  402 - Leominster / Ridgemoor circular  403 - Leominster Southern Avenue circular</p> <p>In summary, these services will operate:  Monday to Saturday with a frequency of hourly or 2 hourly</p>
<p><b>Reasons for decision:</b></p>	<p>To provide support to at risk suppliers responsible for important services and to ensure public transport services are sufficient to meet the travel needs of key workers and vulnerable members of the community during the current COVID-19 emergency.</p> <p>The Secretary of State for Transport issued guidance on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020 regarding maintaining essential bus services and supporting bus operators financially during the COVID-19 outbreak.</p>
<p><b>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</b></p>	<p>There are no financial risks - re-deploying contracted services to operate the core bus network and monthly payments (rather than quarterly) will support bus operators financially during the COVID-19 emergency period whilst at the same time ensuring that services are maintained within current budget allocation.</p> <p>Maintaining the core bus network ensures public transport remains available to the majority of vulnerable residents who still have essential travel needs such as for medical appointments. As a minimum level of service some lesser populated areas will be without a public bus transport link, help for these residents is available through the council's Talk Community COVID-19 support network with residents being able to access assistance if essential.</p> <p>This decision follows on from the decision taken 24 March 2020 which sought to comply with the government's Procurement Policy Note Supplier relief due to COVID-19 Action Note PPN 02/20 March 2020. The Policy Note acknowledged that providers would be expected to act flexibly allowing for redeployment of undelivered contracted services in response</p>

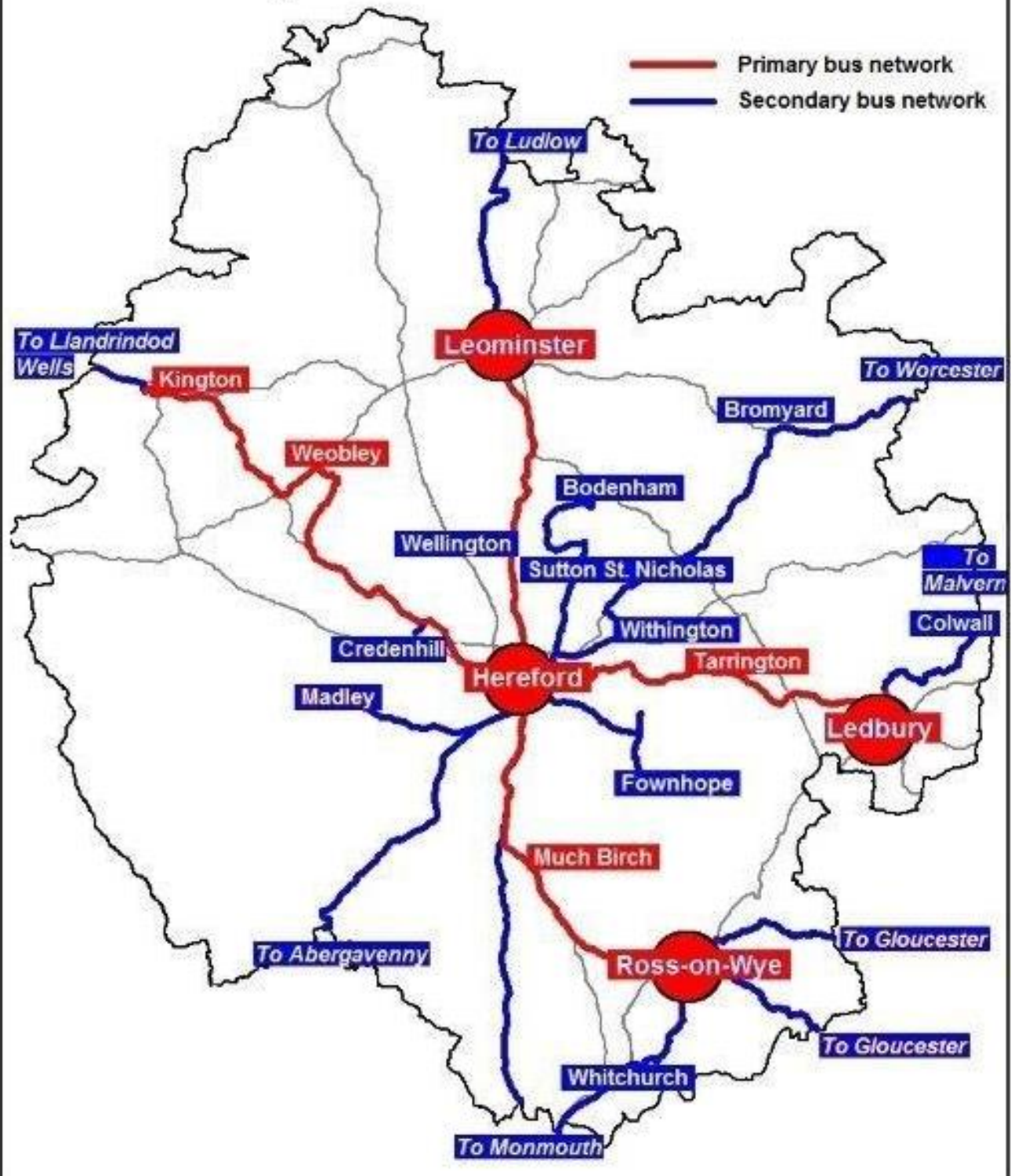
	to the COVID-19 emergency.
<b>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</b>	None
<b>Details of any declarations of interest made:</b>	None

Signed

Date: 1 April 2020

Richard Ball  
Director for Economy & Place

# Local Transport Plan Priority Network of Core Services



**Herefordshire's Core Bus Network**



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