

# KEYNSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Bus Services Working Party meeting held on  
Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 5.00pm  
in MakeSpace, 2 Riverside Terrace, Keynsham

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PRESENT: Councillors D Brassington, D Biddleston, E Cannon and A Greenfield

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk and Cllrs S Alenshasy, A Halliday, H MacFie

## 1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Councillor Alex Beaumont expressed an interest in being Chair of this Working Party in advance of this meeting.

*RESOLVED:*

*That Councillor Alex Beaumont be elected as Chairman.*

## 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

*RESOLVED:*

*That apologies be received and accepted from Councillors Alex Beaumont and M Burton (substitute).*

## 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

*RESOLVED:*

*Councillor D Biddleston declared a non-disclosable pecuniary interest as Chair of Dial-A-Ride.*

## 4. BACKGROUND

The resolution of the Town Council at its meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024 to set up a Bus Working Party to consider solutions to instigate a new community bus service for Keynsham Residents with WECA funding was noted.

## 5. NAME OF WORKING PARTY

*RESOLVED:*

*The Working Party is called the Bus Services Working Party.*

## 6. MEMBERSHIP

*RESOLVED THAT THE MEMBERSHIP BE AS FOLLOWS: -*

Councillors Alex Beaumont, D Brassington, D Biddleston, E Cannon and A Greenfield.  
 Substitutes – Councillors C Davis and M Burton.

At future meetings the following external Stakeholders, be invited as when appropriate:

B&NES Transport Team  
 Bus Operators (WESTLink, First Bus etc.).  
 Members from WECA  
 Possibly Dial-A-Ride

## 7. OPTIONS/SOLUTIONS

**RESOLVED:**

The options/solutions to be considered by the Working Party are as follows:

- a) Provision of services by existing Operator(s)
- b) Provision of services by B&NES
- c) Provision of services by other bus operators e.g. those not providing a service in this area.
- d) A commercial community transport operator acting under section 22 with a 16-seater bus.
- e) The possible impact of devolution and working across borders.

## 8. TERMS OF REFERENCE

**RESOLVED:**

NAME OF WORKING PARTY	BUS SERVICES
MEMBERSHIP WITH VOTING RIGHTS	5 Members of the Town Council (2 substitutes)
MEMBERSHIP WITHOUT VOTING RIGHTS	B&NES Transport Officer Dial-A-Ride Representatives. WECA Representatives. Other community representatives
TERMS OF REFERENCE	(i) To consider transport solutions to set up a new community bus service for Keynsham Residents and to look at possible improvements to existing services.  (ii) To make recommendations to the Town Council on future community transport arrangements in Keynsham
DELEGATED POWERS	None – reports and makes recommendations

	to full Town Council
<b>QUORUM</b>	3 members of the Working Group, 2 of which must be Town Councillors.
<b>FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS</b>	As required until successful solutions have been identified

## 9. UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES TO DATE

Cllr Biddleston reported the following:

- With forecast higher parking charges, the move to get people out of their cars (for climate change reasons) and encouraging the use of public transport and the need for bus services for those residents living on the periphery of Keynsham without transport, it is apparent that an additional bus service(s) is essential for our town.
- Reduction in car journeys will relieve concerns regarding equality issues in parts of the town.
- Local Plan discussions recently have sparked conversations in respect of the desire for smaller regular bus services connecting outlying areas with key drop of points in town and close to onward transport connections e.g. main bus stops and the train station.
- The need for a regular bus service between Keynsham and the RUH has also been mentioned by residents.
- It has become apparent that there are WECA monies together with B&NES Sec 106 funds attached to the Persimmon and Bloor Estates in Keynsham South that would fund such a service in Keynsham.
- The Sec 106 funding could possibly provide sufficient funds to support a service for up to 2 years wherein it is hoped that any service would become self-sufficient.
- The possibility of future Sec 106 funding for transport from proposed developments such as Minsmere/Teviot will also assist with supporting a service in the future.
- The application for the WECA funding is time sensitive with an application due in by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024.
- An interest has been expressed to WECA for funding and the application form has been partially completed. The finalized application will be approved at a future meeting before submission.
- A conversation has been had with Paulton Parish Council who have already been through the process of setting up a bus service.
- The company that Paulton Parish Council appointed to run their bus service 'Big Lemon' have been approached and asked to run some trial routes and to provide some possible bus timetables.
- It was mentioned that the WECA funding cannot be used to re-instate old bus services including the Somerdale Service that no longer exists.
- The initial parts of a community survey have been produced. This survey will be used as evidence of the need for a service to support the application. The survey will make reference to bus needs for all areas of Keynsham including a possible school bus route in the mornings to the Secondary Schools.

Future actions:

The survey will be circulated to all Councillors for their input. The printing of the survey will be undertaken in-house. Surveys will be distributed from a stall on the High Street on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May (100 copies of the survey will be produced for this initial stall). A second session of distributing surveys will take place on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May at the Farmers Market (further surveys will be produced for this event). Additional copies will be available from the Town Council office, at Somerdale and in the Library.

An online version of the survey will also be available, and people will be encouraged to complete the survey this way.

The survey will be promoted via The Voice, The WeekIn, KTCRfm and via social media channels to maximise responses.

Drop off boxes for completed surveys will be placed in the Town Council office, in the Library and at Somerdale.

## **10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Date of next meeting to be arranged by Doodle Poll for a date before the end of May 2024.