

Notice of Motion - 60 and 61 Bus Service – Annual Council 11 May 2016 – Council Decision

The 60 and 61 route carried around 93,000 passengers in the last financial year, of which around 80 % were concessionary fares, i.e. free bus passes. The Government (Department of Transport) provide guidance on how to calculate the concession rate for each operator / network. A very complex set of algorithms have been developed by Department for Transport economists to ensure that bus operators are no worse off, or no better off, from having to carry concessionary passengers free of charge.

This service runs through the Preston, Clifton with Maidenway, Cockington with Chelston and Tormohun Wards 9 journeys per day Monday to Friday.

This service in particular has seen a reduction in concessionary passengers recently and there has been a reduction in the concession rate paid to this operator. Therefore this route has now proven too marginal for the current operator to continue operating commercially and Local Link have given notice to cut the service 60 / 61 from 16 May 2016.

This Council is asked to approve that a maximum of £100,000 be allocated from the 2016/2017 Revenue Budget Contingency to fund the procurement and subsidised service for the retention of the 60 and 61 bus routes and provide a suitable service for 1 year, on the understanding that it must be commercially viable by the end of the period, or the subsidy will cease.

Proposed by Councillor King
Seconded by Councillor Amil