

Report to	<b>Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment</b>
Date	<b>7 November 2005</b>
Report By	<b>Director of Transport and Environment</b>
Title of Report	<b>Petition calling for an extension to the off-peak and weekend services provided by the No. 2 and No. 8 buses in the Hollington area of Hastings</b>
Purpose of Report	<b>To consider a petition requesting an extension to the bus service provided to include Sundays and public holidays, and off-peak times in the evening, and to also consider the provision of a low floor service.</b>

---

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**To advise the petitioners that their request has been considered and the extension of off-peak and weekend services subsidised by County Council funding cannot be justified as the level of use is unlikely to meet the criteria for implementation set out in the draft guidance on the provision of bus services.**

---

---

### **1. Financial Appraisal**

1.1 There are no financial implications at this stage in respect of the recommendations detailed in this report.

### **2. Supporting Information**

2.1 At the County Council meeting on 26 July 2005 Councillor Birch presented a petition to the Chairman calling for a Sunday and Public Holiday service and an extension to the off-peak evening services provided by the No. 2 and No.8 buses in the Hollington area. Furthermore, the petitioners would like the County Council to consider the provision of a low floor bus service on this route.

2.2 A copy of the petition is available in the Members' Room. Standing Orders provide that where the Chairman considers it appropriate, petitions are considered by the relevant Committee or Lead Member and that a spokesperson for the petitioners be invited to address the Committee. The Chairman has referred this petition to the Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment.

### **3. Comments / Appraisal**

3.1 Services 2 and 8 are low frequency bus routes serving areas of limited demand in Hastings and St Leonards. They complement the high frequency 'Arrows' routes which operate on the main bus corridors. The provision of evening and Sunday services is likely to be expensive and would attract little use. Evening services on these routes provided with Urban Bus Challenge funding for the period from May 2003 until September 2004 were withdrawn due to very low levels of use.

3.2 Low floor buses are gradually being introduced on bus routes in Hastings, priority being given to the most heavily used routes so that the greatest benefit is felt. Services 2 and 8 are not priorities for conversion to low floor bus operation at present, but by the year 2012 all bus routes will need to be operated by accessible buses.

#### **4. Conclusion and Reason for Recommendation**

4.1 The introduction of evening and Sunday services and low floor buses to Routes 2 and 8 can only be achieved with county council funding as Stagecoach are unwilling to operate these on a commercial basis. The levels of use of services provided previously was such that the criteria for providing such support was not achieved and there have been no changes to circumstances that would justify the requested change.

4.2 Bus services operate on the main routes in Hollington on Sundays and evenings and these are accessible to most of the population in this area.

BOB WILKINS  
Director of Transport and Environment

Contact Officer: Don Benn                      Tel. No. 01273 482538

Local Member: Councillor Birch

#### **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None