

# Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



**Nottingham**  
**City Council**

Reference Number:	3588
Author:	Richard Wellings
Department:	Development and Growth
Contact:	Richard Wellings (Job Title: Senior Public Transport Officer, Email: richard.wellings@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 64896)
Subject:	Queen's Drive Park and Ride Site: Withdrawal of the Centrelink Bus Service, and its replacement by Nottingham City Transport commercial bus service 49
Total Value:	£150,000 (saving) (Type: Revenue)
Decision Being Taken:	Withdrawal of the Centrelink contract bus service that operates between Queen's Drive Park & Ride site and the City Centre. This will be replaced, at the same 15-minute frequency, by a service provided commercially by Nottingham City Transport Ltd that currently passes the site, but does not enter it. This will save the Council the annual cost of operation for this route at a time when significant budget savings are required. The new service will see new gas buses on the Nottingham City Transport service replace the electric buses on the service between Queen's Drive Park & Ride and the City Centre. These electric buses will then be redeployed onto other contract bus services in the City.
Reasons for the Decision(s)	The need for budget savings in 2019/20, and the years that follow, requests that £1,011,000 in savings is made from public transport budgets each year. One way that this target can be achieved is to commercialise those routes that have the potential to operate on a commercial basis. This proposal sees the Centrelink bus service replaced by a commercial bus route operated by Nottingham City Transport Ltd. This will take effect on 23 June 2019. Departure charges will be collected from the operator, and these are estimated at £8,000 per year. This will help to offset the costs of operating and maintaining the car park and associated facilities.
Other Options Considered:	<p>Retention of the existing contract bus service: this would not achieve the required budget savings for 2019/20 and the years that follow, and could result in a duplication of services that could adversely impact and distort commercial network operations. For these reasons, this option was rejected.</p> <p>Withdrawal of the service between Queen's Drive Park &amp; Ride site and the City Centre entirely: this would leave the Queen's Drive Park &amp; Ride facility under-utilised. For this reason, this option was rejected.</p>

**Background Papers:** **None**

**Published Works:** **None**

**Affected Wards:** **Citywide**

**Colleague / Councillor Interests:** **None**

**Consultations:** **Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.**

**Crime and Disorder Implications:** **None**

**Equality:** **Please login to the system to view the EIA document: Equality Impact Assessment.docx**

**Decision Type:** **Portfolio Holder**

**Subject to Call In:** **Yes**

**Call In Expiry date:** **29/07/2019**

**Advice Sought:** **Legal, Finance, Procurement, Equality and Diversity**

**Legal Advice:**

The recommendation in this report is to withdraw an existing Centrelink bus service currently commissioned by the Council following a procurement process, in light of receipt of notification to the Council from a commercial bus operator wishing to operate the same service itself, commercially.

If the current services were not withdrawn, there would be duplication in service delivery over this route. As a local transport authority, there is an obligation upon the Council to not only consider where subsidised bus services are necessary in its area to deliver services that would not otherwise be met, but also to have due regard to the interests of the public and operators and ensure that when supplementing commercial networks with supported services, that proposals would not adversely affect the commercial network. In the absence of an earlier commercial network for these services, it is understood that it was deemed appropriate for the Council to provide support to public transport, hence its commissioned service for these earlier routes.

In light of the new request by a commercial operator, it is sensible for the Council to determine that the services and requirements are being met by alternative means and therefore the Council is no longer required to support the services at this time. Given the new service will continue to operate over the same routes as the old one and the impact of the change has been considered and evaluated and an EIA undertaken, the recommendation to withdraw the service is supported. The charges for operation in and out of the Queen's Drive Park and Ride site will also provide additional income to the Council.

Advice provided by Dionne Claire Screamore (Solicitor) on 11/04/2019.

**Finance Advice:**

The withdrawal of this route will save approximately £150,000 per year, which will contribute to the overall £1.011m saving which has been identified in the budget for this service during 19/20 and subsequent years. The saving is likely to begin in June 2019. While the departure charge saving mentioned in the decision (£8,000) is in addition to the £150,000, there may be some additional costs which this will manage. Otherwise, this will be another part of the overall £1.011m saving already identified.

Advice provided by Susan Tytherleigh (Senior Finance Manager) on 20/03/2019.

**Procurement Advice:**

There are no procurement concerns regarding the implementation of the recommendations of this report.

Advice provided by Paul Ritchie (Lead Procurement Officer) on 13/03/2019.

**Equality and Diversity Advice:**

The Equality Impact Assessment reflects the need for ongoing monitoring to ensure any adverse impacts are quickly identified and, where necessary, mitigating activities are considered and actioned where possible and appropriate.

Advice provided by Adisa Djan (Equalities and Diversity Consultant) on 07/06/2019.

**Signatures**

Adele Williams (Portfolio Holder for Adult Care & Local Transport)
SIGNED and Dated: 22/07/2019
Chris Henning (Corporate Director for Development and Growth)
SIGNED and Dated: 22/07/2019