

CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL

Report to: Council

Date of Meeting: 28 September 2017

Subject: Bus Services Supported by Clackmannanshire Council and NHS Forth Valley

Report by: Executive Director

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1. This report updates Council on the potential integration of services C1 and C2, currently supported by Clackmannanshire Council, and bus services H1 and H2, currently supported by NHS Forth Valley. Integration of the bus services would reduce the duplication of publicly supported routes in the local area. It would also allow the supported bus network to take better consideration of the commercial network in the area.
- 1.2. In order to achieve statutory deadlines, it is necessary to start the procurement process by the end of September 2017. A further report will be brought to Council following completion of the tender process.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that Council notes the intention to start the joint procurement process, with the options tendered comprising:
 - the *status quo* (four routes); and
 - full integration between what are currently separate Council and NHS services (combined into three routes).

3.0 Considerations

- 3.1. Discussions with NHS Forth Valley regarding the move of hospital services from Stirling and Falkirk to what became Forth Valley Royal Hospital started in 2005. A major component of these discussions in the following years was focused on the provision of direct bus services between Clackmannanshire (Alloa) and the hospital.
- 3.2. In the Section 75 Agreement, dated 8th March 2007, NHS Forth Valley (NHSFV) committed to providing “a minimum of 30 minute frequency direct bus service between the proposed bus stances located at the main hospital entrance and Alloa bus station/town centre”.

- 3.3. Following this legal agreement, a number of consultation events in the Clackmannanshire area highlighted a demand from the public for direct bus services from the Hillfoots villages and towns to the new hospital.
- 3.4. In 2009, it was agreed that the bus service provision be amended to a two hourly service from Dollar and a two hourly service from Alva, combining to provide an hourly service between Alloa and the hospital. This service could be achieved at the same cost as the 30 minute service between Alloa and the hospital contained in the original Section 75 Agreement.
- 3.5. In 2010, NHSFV started moving hospital services from Falkirk and Stirling hospitals to the new facility, completing the move in June 2011. The direct bus services H1 from Alva and H2 from Dollar direct to the hospital commenced in 2010.
- 3.6. In 2014 the H1 and H2 service contracts were due to expire. At this time, NHSFV stated that the H1 and H2 services would not be replaced on a like for like basis when the contracts expired, in order to reduce costs. Following intervention by the Scottish Government, the H1 and H2 contracts were renewed with only minor adjustments. These contracts are due to expire in March 2018 beyond which it was proposed that the hospital buses and the supported bus services operated by Clackmannanshire Council could be fully integrated to reduce duplication and contain costs.
- 3.7. Officers of Clackmannanshire Council and NHSFV have entered into discussion on the potential integration of these services. Notwithstanding its earlier position NHSFV has agreed to fund the services on a shared basis, apportioned as at present, provided that the cost of their contribution does not exceed the available budget.
- 3.8. Council officers have drafted proposals for a possible integrated supported bus network and timetable options to provide as similar a service as possible to those currently provided by the H1, H2, C1 and C2 services.
- 3.9. Beyond the fully integrated option, the established four route service will also be included in the procurement exercise as a status quo option.
- 3.10. The current contracts for these services are due to expire on Saturday 24 March 2018 and can only be replaced following an EU-compliant procurement process. The services would be tendered for three years, with an optional two-year extension.
- 3.11. As any combined service would be part-funded by the Council and part-funded by NHSFV, it will be necessary for Clackmannanshire Council to issue invitations to tender for provision of the services, with NHSFV included as a partner organisation.

4.0 Sustainability Implications

- 4.1. By including an option to fully integrate publicly supported bus services it is hoped that the best level of service can be sustained in the future by reducing duplication and hence unnecessary cost.

5.0 Resource Implications

5.1. Financial Details

5.1.1 While the status quo option will be included in the tender it is obviously not known whether the current level of service can be maintained within the budgets currently approved by both the Council and NHSFV. The integration option may offer the best means by which a level of service close to that which operates at present can be sustained given the budgetary constraints of both organisations. This position will be clarified following the tender exercise when a further report will be prepared for Council and the NHSFV Board.

5.2. Staffing

5.2.1 There are no direct staffing implications resulting from the report although it is anticipated that staff from the Joint Public Transport Co-ordination Unit will be involved in monitoring usage of the service.

6.0 Exempt Reports

6.1. Is this report exempt? Yes (please detail the reasons for exemption below) No

7.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

(1) **Our Priorities** (Please double click on the check box)

The area has a positive image and attracts people and businesses	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Our communities are more cohesive and inclusive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
People are better skilled, trained and ready for learning and employment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Our communities are safer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Vulnerable people and families are supported	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Substance misuse and its effects are reduced	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Health is improving and health inequalities are reducing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The environment is protected and enhanced for all	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The Council is effective, efficient and recognised for excellence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

(2) **Council Policies** (Please detail)

8.0 Equalities Impact

8.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?

Yes No

9.0 Legality

- 9.1 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes

10.0 Appendices

- 10.1 Please list any appendices attached to this report. If there are no appendices, please state "none".

Appendix 1 – Map of Established Supported Bus Service Network

11.0 Background Papers

- 11.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered)

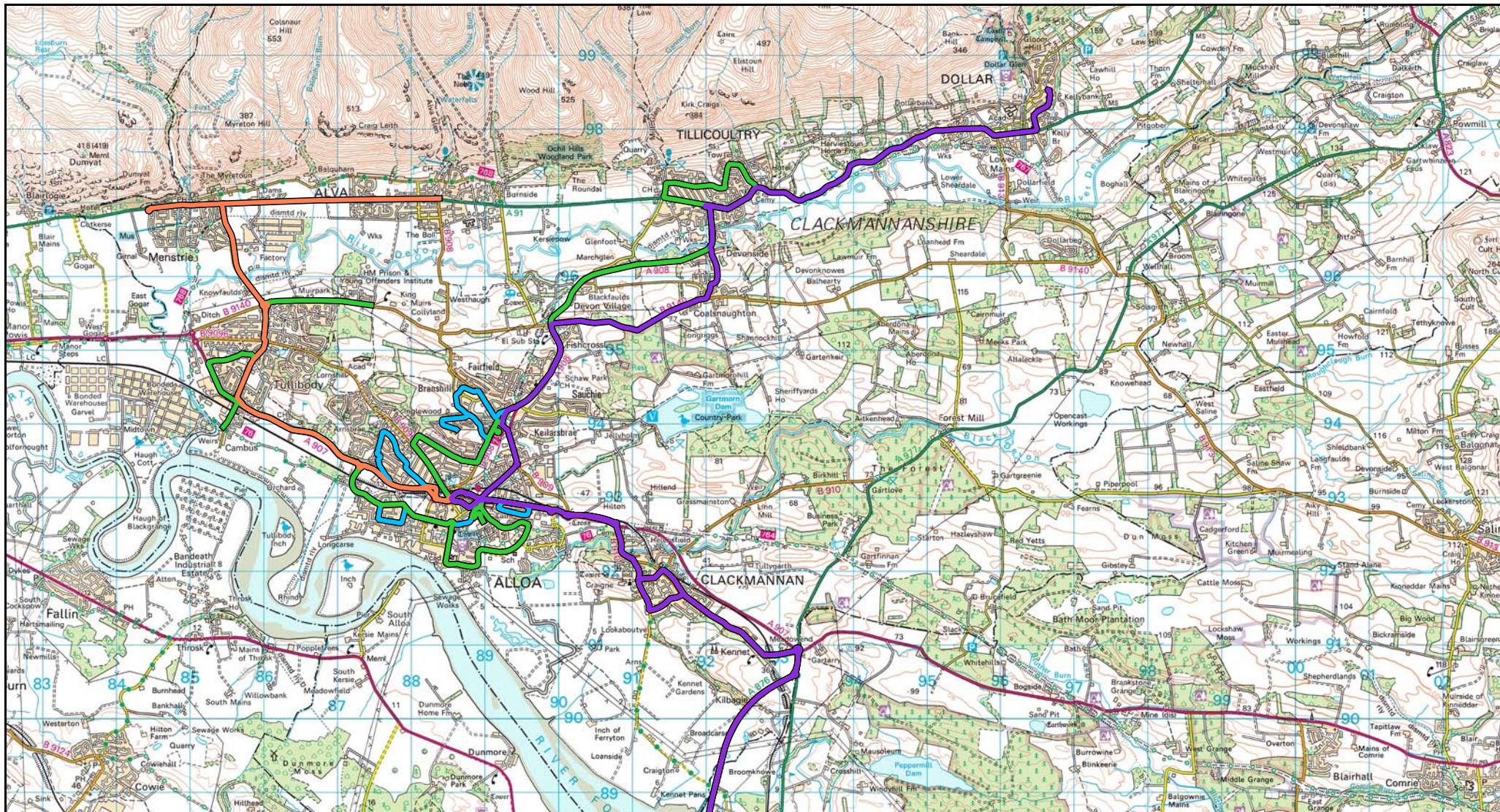
Yes (please list the documents below) No

Author(s)

NAME	DESIGNATION	TEL NO / EXTENSION
Lesley Deans	Principal Transportation Planner	01259 452597
David Brown	Project Officer (Public Transport)	01786 237505

Approved by

NAME	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
Garry Dallas	Executive Director	Signed: G Dallas
Nikki Bridle	Depute Chief Executive	Signed: N Bridle



0 1 2 3 4 kilometres

Scale: 1:75,000 Date: 19 September 2017

Paper size: A4

Reference: Bus Routes.qgs

Legend

- C1 — H1
- C2 — H2

Bus Routes – All routes

Clackmannanshire Council | Comhairle Siarachd Chlach Mhanann
www.clacks.gov.uk

Roads and Transportation
Kilncraigs
Greenside Street
Alloa FK10 1EB

Tel: 01259 450 000
roads@clacks.gov.uk

© Crown copyright and database rights 2017 Ordnance Survey 100020783. You are permitted to use this data solely to enable you to respond to, or interact with, the organisation that provided you with the data. You are not permitted to copy, sub-licence, distribute or sell any of this data to third parties in any form.