



31 Bus

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 75/21

13 SEPTEMBER 2021

The purpose of this Report is to ask Members to consider and respond to a proposal from the 31 Bus Working Group.

No. DETAILS

1) BACKGROUND

- a) The current provider of the 31 Bus Service has been given notified of the decision of the August Town Council meeting to terminate the arrangement.
 - b) The provider's Chief Officer has agreed to initiate the termination by completing the documentary requirements of the Local Authority and the Traffic Commissioner.
 - c) The Working Group's remit is to explore alternatives to the current service.
 - d) Its research indicates that there are two broad operational themes that hinge on which type of operating permit is used.
 - e) A *Section 19 permit* provides for a minibus service used by organizations that address a specific community need, such as unmet public transport needs. These services have flexibility in terms of route and timetabling but cannot carry members of the public on an ad-hoc basis, rather bus users must be registered. A section 19 service is not eligible for claiming back concessionary fares.
 - f) A *Section 22 permit* is a true local bus service and as such it is bound by the rules of the traffic commissioner which stipulate 10 week notice periods for changes to route and timetable. Fares can be charged and concessions collected.
-

2) WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATION

- a) The Working Group's Members' have agreed that the preferred alternative is to explore the possibility of establishing a voluntary organisation of residents to set up and operate the new service, with Town Council support.
 - b) Its recommended way to explore the extent of support for this is to publish, through social media and local web sites an invitation to an initial meeting to discuss the feasibility of this option.
-

+