



**SCRUTINY COMMISSION - 28 OCTOBER 2009**

**PRESENTATION OF PETITION ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF FUNDING FOR LOCAL  
BUS SERVICE 45**

**BRIEFING PAPER**

**Introduction**

1. Mrs H Loydall will present a petition signed by 222 people in the following terms:

*“We the undersigned are very concerned with the planned reduction in hours of the No.45 Bus Service. This will cause serious disruption to the lives of people using the service and we urge the County Council to reinstate their subsidy on this route immediately”.*

**Background**

2. Service 45 is a Monday to Saturday 2-hourly service, provided by Leicestershire County Council and operated under contract by Centrebus at a cost to the County Council of £44,000.00 per year; the contract expires on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2009.
3. The service provides direct links across the southern central Leicestershire area, from Oadby through to Fosse Park, and currently carries around 1,320 passengers per week. It duplicates in part the CircleLine 40 service, which is supported by the City and County Councils, as well as some fully commercial services.
4. The County Council’s policy for supporting local bus services is designed to deliver a core countywide network of Monday to Saturday daytime services operating to an hourly or better timetable within 800m of 95% of Leicestershire residents. In order to make the most of the limited resources available to us, it is not policy to support additional services over and above this core requirement. All the settlements on the route covered by service 45 do have alternative bus services, and all journeys can be made by connection, either to the CircleLine or in the city centre. The withdrawal of this service does not mean that journeys cannot be made, though they will be less convenient.

**Changes to the service from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

5. The funding of service 45 falls outside the policy in that all settlements have alternative frequent bus services. For this reason, the contract was not re-tendered.
6. Centrebus have registered a Monday to Friday commercial service from 26<sup>th</sup> October, operating to a reduced timetable; this retains the off-peak journeys, but removes morning and afternoon peak journeys used mainly by workers. The registration also removed service from the Mere Road estate, Wigston Magna.
7. Because this is a long route, from Oadby Pipistrelle Way to Fosse Park, it is not simple to describe the alternatives, but they do exist. Part of the route follows that of the 40, part of the 85 for example (all three routes are attached as appendices). Journeys can be made by bus, hence the out-of-policy nature of the service, but longer ones will need a connection, which we recognise are less convenient.

8. The situation was discussed with the Lead Member for Highways and Transportation on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2009; Lead Member noted that the service fell outside policy and that the contract should not be renewed. It was also agreed that under the policy an appropriate service should be provided for some Mere Road residents.
9. The County Council will therefore continue to support the diversion of 2 return journeys a day via the Mere Road estate, to retain access for those residents who would otherwise be more than 800m from an hourly or better bus service.

### **List of Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Bus Service No. 45 route

Appendix 2 – Bus Service No. 40 route

Appendix 3 – Bus Service No. 85 route

### **Officer to contact**

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