



Report 08.276
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Committee Transport and Access
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Progress with Trial Services

1. Purpose

To discuss progress with the trial Seatoun ferry service, and the trial Hutt Valley to Wellington Hospital service.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report **do not** trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Background

At its meeting on 13 February 2008, this Committee agreed to a three month trial of a ferry service between Wellington/Eastbourne and Seatoun. The trial was to be at no cost to this Council.

The service began on 3 March 2008, meaning the trial period is to end on 3 June 2008.

At its meeting on 13 February 2008, this Committee heard that Valley Flyer had agreed to trial an extension (to Wellington Hospital) of the route 83 service between Eastbourne and Courtney Place in Wellington.

Valley Flyer agreed to fund the cost of the trial, which was to run until the end of June 2008, at which stage its future would be reconsidered.

The extended service began on 11 February.

4. Seatoun ferry

By all accounts the trial service is operating successfully. Patronage is up overall, numbers of passengers on the new services are reasonable, and very few complaints have been received about the changes made to the existing

services. And the operator (who is paying the costs associated with the new service) is happy with the trial to date.

The trial is due to end on 3 June 2008. However:

- as we are not yet in a position to properly evaluate the service (having only one full month's data), and
- as the next Committee meeting is not until 26 June (i.e. after the trial is due to end), and
- as the trial seems to be operating without any major problems;

it is suggested that the trial be extended for a further three months to the end of August 2008. This will allow a review of the trial to be considered at the 26 June meeting of this Committee, and still allow time for any decision to be implemented.

The ferry operator is in agreement with this suggestion.

5. Hutt to hospital service

The Hutt to Hospital service is due to end at the end June. At that stage there are essentially three options:

- Valley Flyer will continue the service on a commercial basis
- Valley Flyer will no longer provide the service commercially, and GW agrees to continue it on a subsidised basis
- Valley Flyer will no longer provide the service commercially, and GW decides not to subsidise it.

Evaluation of the trial is underway, but it will take some time (some surveying is involved). Initial indications are that the numbers aren't sufficient to encourage Valley Flyer to continue the service on a commercial basis.

However the evaluation won't be completed in time for the Committee to make any decision at the May meeting. As the next committee meeting is not until 26 June, Valley Flyer has agreed to extend the trial until the end of July.

6. Communication

The decisions of this Committee will need to be communicated to the public and operators following the 26 June 2008 Committee meeting.

7. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. ***Receives the report.***

2. *Notes the content of the report.*
3. *Agrees to extend the trial of the Seatoun ferry service to 29 August 2008.*
4. *Notes the trial of the Hutt to Hospital service is currently being evaluated, and that the trial has been extended until the end of July.*

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