

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>TITLE</b>                | <b>Bus Services - s106 Release</b>                      |
| <b>FOR CONSIDERATION BY</b> | <b>The Executive on 24 September 2015</b>               |
| <b>WARD</b>                 | None specific   |
| <b>DIRECTOR</b>             | Heather Thwaites, Director of Environment               |
| <b>LEAD MEMBER</b>          | John Kaiser, Executive Member for Planning and Highways |

## **OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY**

Release of s106 money will aid in the promotion of sustainable travel for both new development and existing communities.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Executive are asked to approve:

- 1) the release of £154,500 of s106 money to improve bus services serving Mulberry Grove (Kentwood East) and £252,187 to support buses serving the Johnson & Johnson site in Wokingham Without; and
- 2) the expenditure of £406,687 with a profile of £45,846 in year 1, £66,446 in year 2,3 and 4, £35,546 in year 5 and £25,246 in years 6 to 10.

## **SUMMARY OF REPORT**

### **Mulberry Grove (Kentwood East)**

Within the North Wokingham Strategic Development Location, at the development site at Mulberry Grove (Kentwood East) the Council have secured S106 contributions specifically for "Improvement of bus services which serve the development".

The Executive are asked to approve the release of that S106 money. This enhancement will allow new residents at Mulberry Grove and existing residents in Norreys to use the bus to access peak time rail services (the 121 service currently only operates in the off peak) and increase the number of buses from 17 to 25 a day.

### **Johnson & Johnson**

The Executive are asked to approve the release of s106 money to support the annual cost of running the revised 122 bus service which was altered to provide peak hour extension services to the Johnson and Johnson (Pinewood) Offices on Nine Mile Ride. This request follows the "Supported Bus Service" Exec Report in March 2014 which outlined the costs of running the service. This will increase the number of buses from 3 to 7 a day.

The s106 identified to fund this has been received and is ring-fenced "Towards the improvement of bus services in the vicinity of the site". First year funding was approved

in 2014/15 under the delegated s106 approval, Exec approval will cover approximately an additional 10 years funding support.

Neither service would be supported from other funding sources without specific agreement of the Council's executive.

## **Background**

### Mulberry Grove (Kentwood East)

Within the North Wokingham SDL, at the development site at Mulberry Grove (Kentwood East) the Council have secured s106 Contributions specifically for "Improvement of bus services which serve the development" totalling £300,000 plus indexation.

It is proposed to use £154,500 of the £300,000 towards enhancing the existing 121 bus service from Autumn 2015 for 3 years and 9 months to Summer 2019 to coincide with the remaining term of the existing Courtney Buses contract. The existing 121 service runs from 8.50am to 5.20pm. This enhancement will extend the service into Mulberry Grove and the time the service runs from 6.40am to 7.00pm. Currently the service provides 17 buses a day and this enhancement will extend this to 25 buses a day. This in turn will allow new residents at Mulberry Grove and existing residents in Norreys to use the bus to access peak time rail services.

Enhancing this service provides greater opportunities for residents to use the bus to access education, employment and local facilities. A map of the proposed route is shown in Appendix A.

### Johnson & Johnson

It is proposed to use £252,187 of S106 funding to support the annual cost of running the revised 122 bus service which was altered to provide peak hour extension services to the Johnson and Johnson (Pinewood) Offices on Nine Mile Ride. This request follows the "Supported Bus Service" Exec Report in March 2014 which outlined the costs of running the service.

The 122 bus serves a wide range of communities running between Sandhurst, Crowthorne and Wokingham town. A bus route map is attached as Appendix B.

The s106 identified to fund this has been received and is ring-fenced "Towards the improvement of bus services in the vicinity of the site". £25,246 was approved in 2014/15 under the delegated s106 approval, Exec approval will cover approximately an additional 10 years funding support. Currently the service provides for 3 buses a day and this will increase to 7 buses a day in future.

## **Analysis of Issues**

For both locations s106 money for improving bus services has been "ring-fenced". Both are extensions to existing services rather than new services, which mean both the new developments and existing communities benefit from the improvements.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION**

**The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.**

The funding for this support will be taken directly from S106 contributions directly related to providing public transport to the related sites. No further funding will be allocated to the services without specific further approval from the Council's executive.

|   | How much will it Cost/<br>(Save) | Is there sufficient<br>funding – if not<br>quantify the<br>Shortfall | Revenue or<br>Capital? |
|---|----------------------------------|--|------------------------|
| Current Financial<br>Year (Year 1)              | £45,846<br>(£20,600 + £25,246)   | Yes – S106   | Revenue                |
| Next Financial Year<br>(Year 2)                 | £66,446<br>(£41,200 + £25,246)   | Yes – S106   | Revenue                |
| Following Financial<br>Year (Year 3)            | £66,446<br>(£41,200 + £25,246)   | Yes – S106   | Revenue                |
| Following Financial<br>Year (Year 4)            | £66,446<br>(£41,200 + £25,246)   | Yes – S106   | Revenue                |
| Following Financial<br>Year (Year 5)            | £35,546<br>(£10,300 + £25,246)   | Yes – S106   | Revenue                |
| Subsequent<br>Financial Years<br>(Years 6 – 10) | £126,230<br>(£25,246 x 5)        | Yes – S106   | Revenue                |

|  |
|--|
| <b>Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision</b> |
|--|

|  |
|--|
| The contributions will be drawn down over the period of the contracts. |
|--|

|                                   |
|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Cross-Council Implications</b> |
|-----------------------------------|

|   |
|---|
| Supporting improved bus services like this offers more opportunities for travel to work and education potentially reducing pressure on other budgets that support these journeys. |
|---|

|                                  |
|----------------------------------|
| <b>List of Background Papers</b> |
|----------------------------------|

|      |
|------|
| None |
|------|

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>Contact</b> Matt Davey       | <b>Service</b> Highways and Transport    |
| <b>Telephone No</b> 01189088304 | <b>Email</b> matt.davey@wokingham.gov.uk |
| <b>Date</b> 4 September 2015    | <b>Version No.</b> 1                     |



Service 122

