

## Item 3

26th August 2015



**Glasgow City Council**

**Sustainability and the Environment Policy Development Committee  
26 August 2015**

**Report by Executive Director of Land & Environmental Services**

**Contact: Christine Francis Ext: 78086**

### **THE RIVERSIDER 100 BUS SERVICE – ZERO CARBON EMISSIONS**

#### **Purpose of Report:**

The purpose of this report is to inform committee of the award of a three year contract to subsidise the continued operation of the Riversider 100 bus service.

#### **Recommendations:**

It is recommended that committee notes the Council's continued support of the subsidised Riversider 100 bus service which utilises two zero emission electric buses from George Square, SECC, Kelvingrove Art Gallery and the Riverside Museum.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes  No ✓

consulted: Yes  No ✓

## 1. Background

Glasgow City Council has set up a Community Bus Fund to support services that are not commercially viable but are considered to be necessary to support communities and local services.

The Riversider 100 bus service, initially operated by First Glasgow, commenced at the opening of the Riverside Museum in 2011 but ceased in February 2013. The service provides a valuable connection from bus and rail services in the City Centre to both the Riverside and Kelvingrove Museums via the SECC and Glasgow Harbour and supports tourism, leisure and the local communities in those areas. For these reasons it was agreed to provide some support for the continuation of the service from the Community Bus Fund.

Since 2013, the Riversider 100 bus service has been provided by Strathclyde Passenger Transport (SPT) on behalf of Glasgow City Council through a series of 5 short-term, subsidised contracts.

In April 2014, two electric zero emission buses were purchased, funded in partnership with the Community Bus Fund, SPT and the Scottish Government. It is estimated that the 2 buses (combined) save carbon emissions of 6 Tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per annum.

The timetable itself provides for a half hourly, Monday - Sunday daytime service between Glasgow city Centre, the SECC, Glasgow Harbour, Kelvingrove Art Gallery and the Riverside Museum. This is a key service supporting the city's tourism offering.

## 2. SPT Tender for New Contract

Under the fifth short-term contract, the service was subsidised at a cost of £2,328 per week (equivalent to £121,076 per annum) with the contract ending on 27 June 2015.

Prior to the previous contract ending, an SPT tender recommended Garelochhead Coaches as the preferred bidder to operate a sixth longer term contract over a 3 year period to September 2018. The tendered sum by Garelochhead Coaches equates to a weekly subsidy payment of £977.81 (equivalent to £50,846 per annum).

This represents a saving of £70,230 per annum, on the previous subsidised contract as well as the carbon emissions being reduced.

## 3. Approval of Funding

In June 2015, the Community Bus Fund was used to support the new longer term contract to operate the Riversider 100 Service to September 2018.

The agreed spend profile is outlined below -

<b>Financial Year 2015 - 16</b>	<b>Financial Year 2016 -17</b>	<b>Financial Year 2017 - 18</b>	<b>Financial Year 2018 - 19</b>	<b>Totals</b>
£39,112	£50,846	£50,846	£23,468	<b>£164,272</b>

The funding will pay the new operator, Garelochhead Coaches, to run the service from 28 June 2015 to 15 September 2018 and will be paid to SPT as management agent.

There will be no additional infrastructure or maintenance costs to the Council associated with the running of the service.

## Contribution to Council Strategic Objectives

The utilisation of the two zero emission buses on the Riversider 100 bus service contributes to the Council's Strategic Plan 2012 – 2017, Priority Objective 3, which aims to increase use of public and green transport and contribute to the reduction of the city's carbon footprint. The bus service also supports the City's tourist industry, as well as providing an economic link from the city centre to Kelvingrove Art Gallery and the Riverside Museum.

The zero emission service also complements the Council's ECO Stars scheme, which supports Glasgow's Green Year 2015 and helps Glasgow with its aim to reduce its carbon emissions by 20% by 2020.

## 4. Policy and Resource Implications

### Resource Implications:

*Financial:* Met from the community budget fund.

*Legal:* N/A

*Personnel:* N/A

*Procurement:* N/A

**Council Strategic Plan:** Contributes to Priority Objective 3 of Council's Strategic Plan 2012 – 2017.

### Equality Impacts:

*EQIA carried out:* No

*Outcome:* N/A

### Sustainability Impacts:

*Environmental:* Continuing the Riversider 100 Bus Service contributes to Glasgow's sustainability transport targets.

*Social:* Continued bus service to Glasgow's Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Riverside Museum.

*Economic:* The bus service supports the City's tourist industry as well as providing an economic link from the city centre to Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Riverside Museum.

## 5. Recommendation

It is recommended that committee notes the Council's continued support of the subsidised Riversider 100 bus service which utilises two zero emission electric buses from George Square, SECC, Kelvingrove Art Gallery and the Riverside Museum.