



For Immediate Release

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Shuttle bus service ends as council explores more environmentally-friendly transport

The Basingstoke Centre Shuttle bus service will cease operating on Saturday 3 April as the council explore more environmentally-friendly transport options that will serve residents across the borough better for the future.

Councillors voted to end the service at a meeting on Thursday 25 February as part of their budget proposals for 2021/2022, a move that attracted the support of 60% of residents who took part in the budget proposals consultation, which ran from November 2020 to January 2021.

The Centre Shuttle service has seen a steady decline in passenger numbers over a number of years. An alternative service is available during core hours which has higher passenger numbers and is open to passengers with concessionary passes.

To plan for the future the council is working with partners on how to integrate a park and ride and mass rapid transport system that will help to reduce carbon emissions and serve a greater number of locations such as the M3 junctions, new developments and key areas such as the leisure park and town centre.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's Cabinet Member for Planning, Infrastructure and Natural Environment Cllr Mark Ruffell said: "The Centre Shuttle bus service was designed to reduce the amount of vehicles travelling into the town centre however ongoing analysis of passenger numbers demonstrates it is not achieving this and service is not providing the benefits it was intended to.

"In declaring a Climate Emergency we committed to work towards being a carbon neutral borough by 2030, this will not be achieved by simply doing as we have always done. Instead we now have to look forward and work innovatively with partners to integrate a park and ride and mass rapid transport system that will help to reduce carbon emissions and serve a greater number of locations."

Alternative bus services are available from nearby stops. For timetable information contact Traveline on 0871 200 22 33 or visit nationaljourneyplanner.travelinesw.com/

ENDS

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