



The purpose of this Report is provide Members with information on the operation of the 31 Bus Service

### No. DETAILS

#### 1) BACKGROUND

- a) At its meeting of 10 February the Town Council unanimously resolved to commit to continuing the service on the basis of two days a week for six months with a review after three months.
- b) However government guidance required the termination of the service at the end of March and it ended temporarily on Friday 3 April.
- c) It was then able to restart with risk assessment, signage and social distancing measures in place on 18 August, running on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week.
- d) The Assets & Services Group advised that the documentation from a full three months' operation of the service be available as the basis for a review.
- e) That documentation was available in time for the Group's meeting of 15 December and it saw no reason to discontinue the service in view of the current Covid-related consequences for residents, the fact that there were only three full months of the current financial year remaining and that discussions about a possible alternative service for 2021/22 are ongoing.

#### 2) FINANCES

- a) The information about the three month period of September to November is summarised in the following table:

MONTH	PASSENGER JOURNEYS		2020		
	2019	2020	COST	INCOME	NET
SEPTEMBER	465	278	810	219	
OCTOBER	439	205	810	256	
NOVEMBER	622	175	720	348	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,526</b>	<b>658</b>	<b>2,340</b>	<b>822</b>	<b>1,518</b>

- b) The income from the service is the total of the £1.25 - half of the advertised fare - per passenger journey recovered from the Isle of Wight Council in respect of those qualifying for free bus travel on the basis of numbers supplied by the operator monthly.
- c) The cost relates to the operator's charge of £90 per day of operation.

#### 3) RECOMMENDATION

The Town Council is recommended to agree to the continuation of the service at the current level for the remainder of the 2020/21 financial year,