



COVID-19 AFFECTED SERVICES

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 60/20

10 AUGUST 2020

The purpose of this Report is to ask Members to consider the recommendation of the Town Council's Assets and Services Working Group (ASG) about the re-starting of the 31 Bus Service at this time.

No. DETAILS

1) BACKGROUND

- a) The Town Council's previously closed services of the Outdoor Gym in Ventnor Park and the Esplanade's Paddling Pool have now been re-opened in line with the Town Council's decision at its meeting of 13 July.
- b) In respect of the 31 Bus, Minute 71/20(iii) of that meeting agreed *not to restart the 31 Bus service at this time and to request the Operator's Risk Assessment and mitigation proposals for the service.*

2) PROGRESS

- a) The Assets & Services Working Group (ASG) considered the Risk Assessment for the service provided to it by the operator at its meeting of 21 July.
- b) Although the Risk Assessment graded the Risk Level as Moderate, the Group noted our Health and Safety Officer Nick Cox's assessment of it and following its concerns about the proposed passenger number limit of 10 and that the main users of the service were those in the clinical vulnerable age group it decided to ask the operator to clarify its mitigation proposals.
- c) The areas on which clarification was requested were set out in an email to the operator of 23 July and a response received on 27 and copies of both are attached to this Report.
- d) The Mitigation proposals were discussed by the ASG meeting of 4 July and it was agreed to thank the operator for the professional nature of the proposals but the Group's recommendation to the Town Council would be to not restart the service in its current form and to explore options for an alternative Community Bus service for the 2021/22 financial year.
- e) The Group was very conscious of the fact that the latest government guidance categorises everyone over the age of 70 as *clinically vulnerable* and that most of its users are in that category.
- f) The latest guidance for passengers as at 25 July is available [here](#).

3) RECOMMENDATION

Members are recommended to:

Either:

- i) thank Top Mops and its staff for the service provided to the Town Council in the operation of the 31 Bus;
- ii) agree not to restart the service in its current form;
- iii) explore options for a new Community Bus service for the town from the 2021/22 financial year.

Or:

agree to implement the Town Council's decision in Minute 6/20 to change to two days a week for a six month period from with a review after three months, subject to the operator's willingness to continue the service on that basis.