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T&CC/NJD/JMS

30 June 2015

Dear Sir

### **Proposed Changes to Commercial Bus Services in Tamworth**

At Thursday's Infrastructure Hearings Session, Mr. Mitchell informed us that he had information that certain commercial bus services in Tamworth (notably Service 6) were about to be withdrawn. You may recall that I offered the view that this was unlikely because Service 6 was a successful 30-minute commercial service and the County Council has invested funding to rebrand and promote it as part of our activities to ensure sustainable access to Ventura Park. Furthermore, we were proposing that developers could extend it in the future to serve the Dunstall Lane SUE and offer a 20-minute frequency service to Ventura and the town centre.

I have now checked the bus registration documents received for June and discovered that amongst the changes proposed for Tamworth, a proposal from Arriva to withdraw Service 6 (Monday–Saturday) and introduce a Sunday only service as part of a recent local network review. Given this discovery, I need to offer an apology to you for inadvertently misinforming the hearing session.

However, after all the changes are introduced, Services 115 and 116, 65, 785/786, 16 and 110 will all be available to local residents to access Ventura Park, representing an enhanced network for residents compared to the current situation. Services 115/116 also offer the potential to be extended and diverted to serve proposed residential development at Dunstall Lane.

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These minor bus service revisions do not change the County Council's view that the Tamworth Local Plan can be considered sound and can be made acceptable in transport terms.

I trust this clarifies matters.

Kind regards,



Nick Dawson  
Connectivity Strategy Manager

### **Tamworth – Ventura Park service changes from w/c 20 July 2015**

- 6 – Tamworth to Ventura Park. Service withdrawn Monday to Saturday although new 30 minute frequency services will be introduced on Sundays.
- 115/116 Birmingham/Hurley to Tamworth. Extended from Corporation Street via Church Street, Lichfield Street, A51 Tame Drive to terminate at Ventura Park, Bitterscote Drive. Every 30 minutes Monday to Saturday.
- 65 (was 765) – Tamworth to Atherstone, MIRA and Nuneaton. New service replacing the 765, every hour from Tamworth Corporation Street via Corporation Street, Aldergate, Albert Road (Offa Drive towards Tamworth), Saxon Drive, Bolebridge, Anker Drive, A51, Bitterscote Drive past Ventura Park and onto the A5 towards Atherstone. Every hour Monday to Saturday.
- 785/786 – Lichfield to Tamworth, Atherstone and Polesworth. Re-routed between Whittington and Tamworth to run from Lichfield Road via A51 Tame Drive, A453 Bonehill Road, Ventura Park Road (past John Lewis), Bitterscote Drive, A51 Tame Drive, Lichfield Street and Corporation Street. Towards Lichfield runs in the opposite direction around Ventura Park Road. Every hour Monday to Saturday.

These services changes mean that the section of Ventura Park Road between Bitterscote Drive and the A4091 Fazeley Road will only be served by the Central Buses service 16 between Tamworth, Dosthill and Kingsbury (less than hourly frequency Monday to Friday only, and the Solus 780 service between the hospital, Ventura Park and the Tamworth estates which will be withdrawn in September with the next round of supported service cuts by SCC.

The changes to Service 6 have been registered at less than the usual 56 days' notice using a short notice registration.

### **Other Tamworth Service changes from w/c 20 July 2015**

- Route 5 Tamworth to Amington – to replace parts of Service 785 around Amington, the route will be split into two circular services around the Amington area, 5 and 5A. This will mean buses will operate around Kerria Road in Amington in both directions, and that a diversion into the proposed Golf Course site would be accommodated far easier as it could be done as a diversion off both 5/5A routes, without having to alter the way the services would operate as the initial proposal would have seen. The overall frequency of the 5/5A is still every 12 minutes, but on each loop the frequency will be every 24 minutes.