

Public transport – use of double decker buses

Email received 9th March 2021

The bus services on the Rame Peninsula and in Millbrook in particular are contracted by the Council outside of the built up area of Torpoint and scheduled around a number key principles.

To meet social need for a bus service to provide access to Education, Health, Shopping. The need to fulfil the Council's statutory obligations to provide travel to Torpoint Community College for some 130 pupils on a daily basis, many of whom live in the parish of Millbrook.

Providing connectivity through to Plymouth via Torpoint and the Torpoint Ferry.
Providing connectivity with the Cremyll Ferry service into Plymouth.

The school journeys require two double deck vehicles to provide sufficient capacity. Journeys into Plymouth will also at certain times of the day require the capacity offered by Double Deck vehicles. During the summer the route is popular for the views offered whilst travelling along the coast road providing access to the beaches along the route. It is these peak demands that determine the vehicle type used on the service.

To swap the vehicles at quieter times of the day would add a number of additional costs to the wider bus operation which ultimately would result in higher fares or a wider reduction in service provision to balance cost and revenue. Changing vehicles on route is also unpopular with passengers who are making through journeys and would also prevent the service being able to make the ferry connections at the Torpoint and Cremyll ends of the route. There is also currently no facility available in Torpoint to undertake such activity.

The route is allocated the newest Double Deck vehicles in the Go Cornwall Bus fleet which meet the latest environmental standards. All bus operators had the opportunity to bid to operate the contract when routes were offered to the market prior to the award of the current contract.

Kind regards

Geoff
Geoff Brown
Cornwall Councillor
Newquay Central
Cabinet Member for Transport

Public transport – use of double decker buses

