

REPORT

To: BELLSHILL LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP	Subject: GLASGOW CENTRAL – SHOTTS – EDINBURGH RAIL SERVICE THROUGH BELLSHILL STATION
From: HEAD OF ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION	
Date: 7 MAY 2009	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report updates the partnership on the current proposals for the additional hourly “express service” between Glasgow Central and Edinburgh Waverley calling at Bellshill, Shotts, West Calder, Livingstone South and Haymarket.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 On 23 January 2009 a report was presented to Strathclyde Partnership for Transport’s (SPT) Operations Committee on rail timetable alterations for 2009/10. It identified that following a meeting between the regional transport partnerships and First Scotrail, in December 2008, the December 2009 timetable would include the following change.

There would be an additional hourly “express service” between Glasgow Central and Edinburgh Waverley calling at Bellshill, Shotts, West Calder, Livingstone South and Haymarket.

SPT identified an issue with the use of Bellshill for the fast service and the loss, for the main part of the day, of the stop of the existing service at Cambuslang. It was stated that the specification for the additional service was dependant on fitting in with the operation of the West Coast Main Line (WCML), which now has enhanced services. Network rail would not sanction the additional Shotts express service stopping at any point on the WCML thus precluding a stop at Uddingston. These issues are out with the immediate local control of either Transport Scotland or First Scotrail.

SPT concluded that, while service improvements are welcomed they do not consider Bellshill as the most effective stop for the Caledonian Express due to its limited facilities for parking, lack of scope for future enhancement and access to the station.

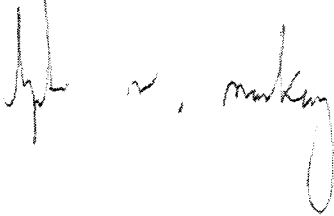
SPT authorised officers to enter into further dialogue with Transport Scotland to seek an amendment to these proposed timetable changes and a stop at Uddingston instead of Bellshill.

- 2.2 At the SPT Operations Committee meeting on 17 April it was reported that, although representation had been made to the rail authorities seeking an amendment to ensure that the Glasgow – Edinburgh via Shotts service stopped at Uddingston instead of Bellshill, no response had been received and confirmed that the Chair of the Operations Committee had written to all MSP’s and MP’s to raise members’ concerns on the matter.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is recommended that Committee,

- a) note the current position regarding the provision of an additional hourly "express service" between Glasgow Central and Edinburgh Waverley calling at Bellshill,
- b) any changes to this proposal will be reported to Committee.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graham Mackay', is positioned above the printed name.

**GRAHAM MACKAY
HEAD OF ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION**

Local Government Access to Information Act: for further information about this report, please contact John Marran, on 01236-616253