

**REPORT FROM: HOUSING, HEALTH AND ENGINEERING MANAGER**

**TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**DATE: 27 JUNE 2019**

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**PROPOSED WITHDRAWAL OF BUS SERVICE 280  
PRESTON-WHALLEY-CLITHEROE-GISBURN-SKIPTON**

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To advise the Committee of the proposed withdrawal by Rotala Preston Bus of the local bus service 280 Preston to Skipton which includes part of the Pendle area, and to request it to consider if it wishes to make a contribution towards the continuation of the service.

**FOR DECISION**

The Committee is requested to consider if the Council should make the requested contribution of £10,000 towards the 280 bus service.

**BACKGROUND**

1. Prior to April 2016, the local bus service linking Preston, Clitheroe and Skipton via Mellor Brook, Whalley, Chatburn, Gisburn and Barnoldswick was operated by Transdev on behalf of Lancashire County Council (LCC) as part of the tendered bus service network. The service operated every hour during Monday to Saturday daytime and every two hours on Sunday daytime.
2. At the time, LCC significantly reduced its financial support for tendered bus services across the whole county and Rotala Preston Bus took on the operation of the service on a commercial basis.
3. The bus service currently links Preston to Skipton including South Ribble, Ribble Valley and Pendle. The service operates Monday to Saturday daytime, every hour between Preston and Clitheroe, extending every two hours through Barnoldswick and Skipton.
4. The service is used by students accessing Clitheroe Royal Grammar School and Skipton Craven College.

## ISSUE

5. From 16 June 2019 Rotala Preston Bus has decided to withdraw the entire service as it is not a commercially viable service for them to continue to run. Whilst other local bus operators have been provided with passenger numbers and operational details, none has come forward to operate this service on a commercial basis.
6. Whilst areas such as Gisburn and residences throughout the length of the A59 will no longer have access to any bus service, there will also be significant impact to residents who travel across the whole area with the cessation of the service.
7. According to ticket machine data and on-bus surveys provided by LCC, there are approximately 170,000 annual passenger trips (559 per day) made on service 280.
8. Just over a third of the annual passenger trips (60,000) are older or disabled concessionary passholders. The fare income generated, including reimbursements, is approximately £330,000 per annum.
9. Whilst there are alternative LCC-tendered bus services available which could be reconfigured to provide a partial service for certain areas, this would result in some other areas having their service withdrawn.
10. A full replacement service has been estimated as costing in the region of £160,000.
11. LCC has procured Stagecoach in Merseyside and Lancashire for an alternative service.
12. Stagecoach is proposing to operate the section of route between Preston and Clitheroe on a commercial basis and is seeking to operate the section between Clitheroe and Skipton, which includes Barnoldswick, on a commercial basis with initial partnership funding support from LCC.
13. The financial subsidy that they would initially require to operate the current timetable (see Appendix) would be £84,483. Alternatively, they have proposed an additional service to Earby which would increase income and therefore reduce the contribution for £80,681 per annum. An updated route timetable including Earby will be produced once a decision is made.
14. Stagecoach will operate to the current timetable but will have freedom to alter the timetable, subject to consultation with LCC, to generate maximum revenue. Stagecoach has said that they will welcome periodic reviews of the service and its funding needs with the aim of reducing the financial support and establishing the service as wholly commercial in the future.
15. Stagecoach is not willing to operate the Preston to Clitheroe section in isolation of the Clitheroe to Skipton section.

## LCC's Proposal

16. LCC is looking to seek funding to initially provide the subsidy of £80,681 per annum for a replacement reflecting the proposed route with Earby incorporated into the service.
17. Whilst LCC recognises that it will be required to fund the majority of this cost, it is requesting both Ribble Valley and Pendle Councils to contribute a quarter of this cost (£10k each).
18. Subject to Cabinet approval, Ribble Valley has agreed to the contribution of £10,000 on the basis that this is a one-off payment and without setting a precedent.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

**Policy:** None arising directly from the report.

**Financial:** The Council is being asked to contribute a one-off £10,000 towards the costs of continuing bus service 280. Ribble Valley Borough Council has agreed, subject to Cabinet approval, to contribute £10,000. LCC will be meeting the other 75 per cent costs, which equate to just over £60,000.

If the Committee agrees to the contribution a Supplementary Revenue Estimate would be required in 2019/20 for one year only funded from the Budget Support Reserve.

**Legal:** None arising directly from the report.

**Risk Management:** None arising directly from the report.

**Health and Safety:** None arising directly from the report.

**Sustainability:** None arising directly from the report.

**Community Safety:** None arising directly from the report.

**Equality and Diversity:** None arising directly from the report.

## **APPENDICES**

Appendix: Proposed Route and Timetable.

## **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.

## Fare & Ticket Information

### GOLD EASITICKETS

For unlimited travel on the 280 route, plus Preston Bus City Network, **Gold EasiTickets** are the best option.

EasiTicket	Adult	Under 19	Family (up to 2 adults + up to 3 children)	Buy On Bus (CASH ONLY)	Buy on Preston Bus APP
Gold EasiDay	£7.00	£5.00	£13.00	✓	✓
Gold EasiWeek	£22.00	£16.00	-	✓	✓
Gold Easi28Day	£80.00	£50.00	-	✓	✓

Buy Gold EasiDay & EasiWeek on bus (cash only) and via app. Gold Easi28Day available on 280 bus (cash only), via app, and at our Preston Bus Station travel office.

Gold EasiTickets can also be used on Preston Bus Clitheroe/Ribble Valley Local Services: 2, 3, 5, 25, 35 (valid on whole of route)

### PERIOD RETURN TICKETS

Return tickets issued on 280 are Period Returns. Outbound journey must be taken on purchase date - return journey can be taken up to 28 days after purchase date. For Day Return Journeys buy a Gold EasiDay Ticket.

### RIBBLE VALLEY LOCAL WEEKLY TICKETS (buy on bus)

Valid for travel between Sawley and Langho, & Ribble Valley Local Services 2, 3, 5, 25, 35. Ribble Valley Local Weekly Adult £15.00, Child £10.00

### CRAVEN EASIDAY TICKET

One day's travel between Barnoldswick & Skipton for just £4.00

### FURTHER INFORMATION

Our drivers are happy to give change on this service, but when there is no change available, a credit note will be issued, redeemable on any bus on **280 route** or at our Preston Bus Station offices.

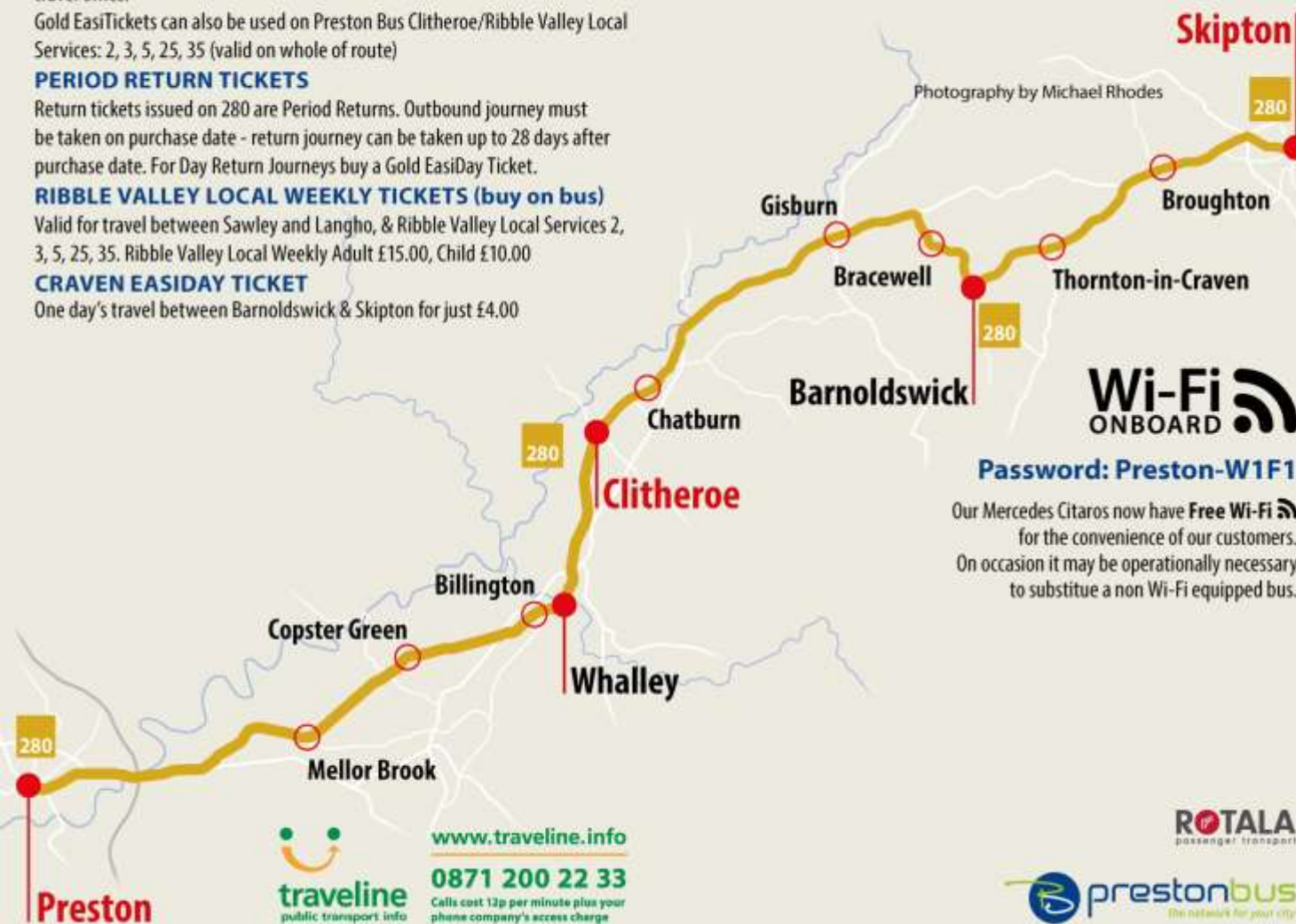
### CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL

Concessionary travel passes (e.g. NoWcard) for pensioners and people with defined disabilities are valid along the entire route. Pass Holders are eligible for free off-peak travel, in accordance with rules set by their local authority.

Photography by Michael Rhodes

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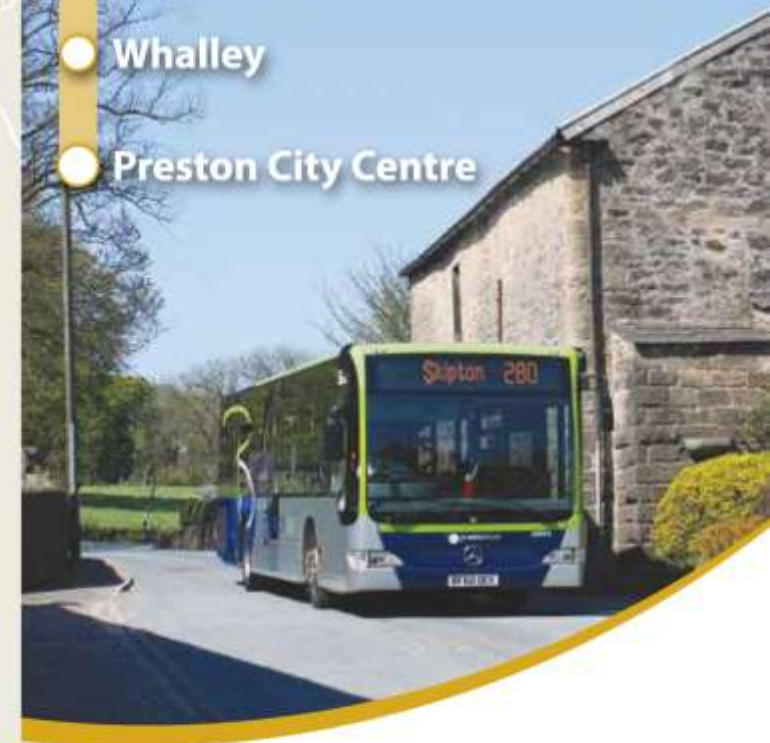
Photography by Michael Rhodes



# 280

## Skipton

- Barnoldswick
- Clitheroe
- Whalley
- Preston City Centre



**OTALA**  
passenger transport

**prestonbus**  
the network for your city

**prestonbus**  
the network for your city

**traveline**  
public transport info

[www.traveline.info](http://www.traveline.info)  
**0871 200 22 33**  
Calls cost 12p per minute plus your  
phone company's access charge

**Preston**



## Mondays to Fridays

### 280 Preston - Skipton via Whalley, Clitheroe, Barnoldswick

<b>Preston Bus Station</b>	0650	0735	0915	1015	1115	1215	1315	1415	1515	1615	1715	1815
Hesketh Arms	0700	0745	0925	1025	1125	1225	1325	1425	1525	1627	1727	1824
Mellor Brook Fieldens Arms	0711	0757	0935	1035	1135	1235	1335	1435	1535	1639	1739	1834
Langho Petre Arms	0722	0809	0945	1045	1145	1245	1345	1445	1545	1650	1750	1844
<b>Whalley King Street</b>	0728	0815	0952	1052	1152	1252	1352	1452	1552	1657	1757	1850
<b>Clitheroe Interchange</b> Arr	0740	0828	1004	1104	1204	1304	1404	1504	1604	1709	1809	1900
<b>Clitheroe Interchange</b> Dep	0743		1009	-	1209	-	1409	-	1609	-	1814	-
Chatburn Post Office	0750		1016	-	1216	-	1416	-	1616	-	1821	-
Gisburn Travellers Court	0758		1024	-	1224	-	1424	-	1624	-	1828	-
<b>Barnoldswick Fernlea Avenue</b>	0809		1035	-	1235	-	1435	-	1635	-	1839	-
Thornton-in-Craven Post Office	0814		1040	-	1240	-	1440	-	1640	-	-	-
Skipton Rail Station	-		1052	-	1252	-	1452	-	1652	-	-	-
<b>Skipton Bus Station</b>	0833		1055	-	1255	-	1455	-	1655	-	-	-

On college days only this bus runs via Craven College at 0825 NOT via Skipton Railway Station

On school days only this bus continues to Clitheroe Royal Grammar School after Clitheroe Interchange, arriving at 0832



### 280 Skipton - Preston via Barnoldswick, Clitheroe, Whalley

<b>Skipton Bus Station</b>	-	-	-	0920	-	1120	-	1320	-	1520	-	1720	-
Skipton Rail Station	-	-	-	0922	-	1122	-	1322	-	1522	-	1722	-
Thornton-in-Craven Post Office	-	-	-	0932	-	1132	-	1332	-	1532	-	1732	-
<b>Barnoldswick Fernlea Avenue</b>	0615	0705	-	0938	-	1138	-	1338	-	1538	-	1738	1839
Gisburn Main Street opp. Park Rd	0624	0714	-	0948	-	1148	-	1348	-	1548	-	1748	1849
Chatburn Post Office	0632	0722	-	0956	-	1156	-	1356	-	1556	-	1756	1857
<b>Clitheroe Interchange</b> Arr	0639	0729	-	1005	-	1205	-	1405	-	1605	-	1805	1906
<b>Clitheroe Interchange</b> Dep	0642	0734	0840	1010	1110	1210	1310	1410	1510	1610	1715	1810	1910
<b>Whalley Bus Station</b>	0654	0747	0855	1025	1125	1225	1325	1425	1525	1625	1727	1822	1920
Langho Petre Arms	0700	0753	0901	1031	1131	1231	1331	1431	1531	1631	1733	1828	1925
Mellor Brook Fieldens Arms	0710	0803	0912	1042	1142	1242	1342	1442	1542	1642	1743	1838	1935
Hesketh Arms	0720	0817	0924	1054	1154	1254	1354	1454	1554	1654	1753	1848	1945
<b>Preston Bus Station</b>	0730	0830	0936	1106	1206	1306	1406	1506	1606	1706	1805	1858	1955

#### What's new?

From Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018

Minor timetable changes to aid reliability.

X80 service (via West Marton) ceases operation.

Preston - Skipton service now every two hours.

No Sunday journeys on 280 service after Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2018.

A limited Sunday service to be reintroduced in Spring 2019.

## Saturdays

### 280 Preston - Skipton via Whalley, Clitheroe, Barnoldswick

<b>Preston Bus Station</b>	0815	0915	1015	1115	1215	1315	1415	1515	1615	1715
Hesketh Arms	0825	0925	1025	1125	1225	1325	1425	1525	1625	1725
Mellor Brook Fieldens Arms	0835	0935	1035	1135	1235	1335	1435	1535	1635	1735
Langho Petre Arms	0845	0945	1045	1145	1245	1345	1445	1545	1645	1745
<b>Whalley King Street</b>	0852	0952	1052	1152	1252	1352	1452	1552	1652	1752
<b>Clitheroe Interchange</b> Arr	0904	1004	1104	1204	1304	1404	1504	1604	1704	1804
<b>Clitheroe Interchange</b> Dep	0909	-	1109	-	1309	-	1509	-	1709	-
Chatburn Post Office	0916	-	1116	-	1316	-	1516	-	1716	-
Gisburn Travellers Court	0924	-	1124	-	1324	-	1524	-	1724	-
<b>Barnoldswick Fernlea Avenue</b>	0935	-	1135	-	1335	-	1535	-	1735	-
Thornton-in-Craven Post Office	0940	-	1140	-	1340	-	1540	-	1740	-
Skipton Rail Station	0952	-	1152	-	1352	-	1552	-	1752	-
<b>Skipton Bus Station</b>	0955	-	1155	-	1355	-	1555	-	1755	-

### 280 Skipton - Preston via Barnoldswick, Clitheroe, Whalley

<b>Skipton Bus Station</b>	-	-	1020	-	1220	-	1420	-	1620	-	1820
Skipton Rail Station	-	-	1022	-	1222	-	1422	-	1622	-	1822
Thornton-in-Craven Post Office	-	-	1032	-	1232	-	1432	-	1632	-	1832
<b>Barnoldswick Fernlea Avenue</b>	0838	-	1038	-	1238	-	1438	-	1638	-	1838
Gisburn Main Street opp. Park Rd	0848	-	1048	-	1248	-	1448	-	1648	-	1848
Chatburn Post Office	0856	-	1056	-	1256	-	1456	-	1656	-	1856
<b>Clitheroe Interchange</b> Arr	0905	-	1105	-	1305	-	1505	-	1705	-	1905
<b>Clitheroe Interchange</b> Dep	0910	1010	1110	1210	1310	1410	1510	1610	1710	1810	1910
<b>Whalley Bus Station</b>	0925	1025	1125	1225	1325	1425	1525	1625	1725	1825	1920
Langho Petre Arms	0931	1031	1131	1231	1331	1431	1531	1631	1731	1831	1925
Mellor Brook Fieldens Arms	0942	1042	1142	1242	1342	1442	1542	1642	1742	1841	1935
Hesketh Arms	0954	1054	1154	1254	1354	1454	1554	1654	1754	1851	1945
<b>Preston Bus Station</b>	1006	1106	1206	1306	1406	1506	1606	1706	1806	1901	1955

#### Contact us:

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Preston PR1 6NY

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customer.care@rotala.co.uk



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