



## PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE

### INDIVIDUAL DECISION BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND WELLBEING

#### TOPIC – COMMUNITY TRANSPORT BUDGET

#### PROCEDURAL INFORMATION

The Access to Information Procedure Rules – Part 4, Section 22 of the Council's Constitution provides for a decision to be made by an individual member of Cabinet.

In accordance with the Procedure Rules, the Chief Operating Officer, the Chief Executive and the Chief Finance Officer are consulted together with Chairman and Vice Chairman of The Overview and Scrutiny Committee and any other relevant overview and scrutiny committee. In addition, all Members are notified.

If five or more Members from those informed so request, the Leader may require the matter to be referred to Cabinet for determination.

#### Contact Officers:

Case Officer: Dan Massey, Tel: 01962 848534 Email: dmassey@winchester.gov.uk

Democratic Services Officer: Nancy Graham, Tel: 01962 848235, Email: ngraham@winchester.gov.uk

#### SUMMARY

- The community transport budget funds many different transport schemes around the District. These include Dial-a-Ride, Shopmobility, Bikeabout, and the Denmead shopper bus. It also continues to receive requests for support from other groups which provide community transport in the more rural areas.
- The City Council either has contracts with the providers of the services or long standing service agreements in place.
- **Dial-a-Ride** – The service is a door to door transport service for people with mobility difficulties. Dial-a-Ride is run by Community First Winchester formally Winchester Area Community Action. Winchester City Council and Hampshire County Council are joint funders of the scheme, with the latter Council being the lead partner. Each funding partner also contributes money into the replacement vehicle fund every year. The current Dial-a-Ride contract is running from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2013 for a period of four years with provision to extend this for a further two years.
- **Shopmobility** – A service that provides a wide selection of manual and powered wheelchairs and battery powered mobility scooters to those who find it difficult to get out and about. Equipment may be hired for a day or up to 2

weeks from upper parking level of The Brooks car park. Under the service agreement, Community First Winchester manages Shopmobility, which is funded by the City Council.

- **Bikeabout** – Bikeabout is funded by Winchester City Council and run by the Tourist Information Centre and Community First Winchester. The TIC manages the bike ‘hire’ scheme whereas Community First administers the bike ‘loan’ scheme. Community First also maintain all the bicycles in the scheme. The current partnership agreement commenced in June 2012 with the new bike ‘hire’ scheme. Bikeabout users have steadily grown with the summer being the busiest months.
- **Denmead Shopper Bus** – This bus service provides journeys for the residents of Denmead into nearby Waterlooville or Fareham. The funding partners within the service agreement consist of the City Council, Hampshire County Council and Denmead Parish Council.
- **Southwick Taxi-share** - This scheme was the result of the 38/138 bus service being withdrawn in 2012. The City Council contributed a one off sum of £10,000 to Hampshire County Council as part of a package of funding (including contributions from the County Council and the Parish Councils) to enhance an existing taxi-share service.
- The City Council used to have a Rural Transport Fund. This specific fund was available until 2010/2011 and provided grants to local groups and organisations running or setting up rural transport schemes.
- Schemes that used to benefit from the Rural Transport Fund are Swanmore Care Group, Meon Valley Community Bus Association, and the New Alresford Town Trust minibus scheme.
- The fund also used to pay for Midas Training, which allows additional volunteers to be trained to drive Mini-buses and escorting elderly and disabled users.
- The community transport budget usually has a small amount of uncommitted funding each year (typically about £4000) once our obligations to support schemes like Dial-a-Ride have been met, This can be used to support other small community transport schemes. It is proposed that in 2015/16 £2,000 be allocated to the New Alresford Town Trust Minibus scheme. This will leave £1,768 to be allocated under the proposed delegation set out below.

## **DECISION**

That the Assistant Director (Environment) in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Health and Wellbeing be authorised to continue supporting all community transport schemes as directed by contracts and service agreements and allow any surplus funding from the Community Transport budget to be allocated to local community transport schemes, up to a maximum of £2,000 per organisation (all as outlined in the table set out below in the Resources Section).

## **REASON FOR THE DECISION AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

N/a.

**RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

The community transport budget covers the cost of all the services mentioned above. The surplus funding, around £4,000 can help support community transport groups.

	2014/2015	2015/2016
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>£125,399</b>	<b>£125,399</b>
Dial - a- Ride	£50,703	£51,490
Shopmobility	£57,847	£57,847
Bikeabout	£5,500	£5,500
Denmead Shopper	£1,130	£1,150
Southwick TaxiShare	£1,667	£5,644
<b>Unallocated Budget</b>	<b>£8,553</b>	<b>£3,768</b>
<b>Grant Requested and Accepted</b>		
New Alresford Town Trust Minibus scheme	£2,000.00	£2,000.00
<b>Unallocated Budget – after proposals</b>	<b>£6,553</b>	<b>£1,768</b>

**CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN ON THE DECISION**

N/A.

**FURTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF THE DRAFT PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE**

None.

**DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY THE DECISION MAKER OR A MEMBER OR OFFICER CONSULTED**

None.

**DISPENSATION GRANTED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

n/a

Approved by: (signature)

Date of Decision 22.12.2015

Councillor Frank Pearson – Portfolio Holder for Environment, Health and Wellbeing