

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member – Environment
Date:	9 March 2010
Title:	Award of Hart Call and Go Contracts
Reference:	1401
Report From:	Director of Environment

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1. The decision: (PROPOSED)

- a) That contracts be awarded to operators for Shopping Trips A –D as set out in section 3.1. of this report, subject to contract arrangements being agreed with the Parish and Town Councils in Hart.
- b) That the approach of introducing some form of fare differential to be negotiated with the Parish and Town Councils in Hart, be agreed.
- c) That each of the services be marketed in a way which promotes a local identity.
- d) That the award of an interim single tender contract for Rushmoor Voluntary Services be agreed if needed, until the new contracts are implemented.

2. Reason for the decision:

2.1. The award of these contracts will help to improve accessibility in Hart and reduce social isolation by providing people with access to key services including retail. For many people these services offer their only means of travel. The services provided under these contracts help to support the County Council's well being agenda.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

3.1. **Option 1** Award contracts to operators based on the level of funding available for these services.

Risk Assessment: In order to accommodate the shortfall in funding some service levels will need to be reduced. This will provide existing users with less journey opportunities than they currently have. There is also a risk that if

service levels reduce then those parishes contributing may either wish to review or even withdraw their contributions.

- 3.2. **Option 2** Award contracts to operators based on the County Council matching the level of funding provided by the Parish Councils.

Risk Assessment: This would reduce the service levels even further than under Option 1 and would again significantly reduce the number of journey opportunities which existing users have and because of this those parishes contributing may again either wish to review or withdraw their contributions.

- 3.3 **Option 3:** Award a contract for Shopping Trip A and convert the remaining Shopping Trips to Taxi Shares.

Risk Assessment: Taxis have a limited capacity and on some of the shopping trips this could provide limited options for growth. In addition to this not all taxis are accessible and where they are taxi operators will often charge a premium for transporting wheelchair passengers. Reducing the potential capacity on the Shopping Trips may not prove popular with some of the parishes and may put their contributions at risk. If numbers eventually required several runs by a taxi then the cost may be even higher.

- 3.4 **Option 4:** Award no contracts.

Risk Assessment: This would provide many people who rely on the current arrangements with no access to a number of services including retail. This would significantly worsen accessibility in this area of Hampshire.

4. Conflicts of interest:

- 4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None.
4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None.

5. Dispensation granted by the Standards Committee: None.

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: Not applicable.

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by:

Date:

9 March 2010

**Executive Member for Environment
Councillor M J Kendal**