

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment
Date:	4 November 2014
Title:	Community Transport Other Purposes Grant Applications
Reference:	6198
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to recommend a grant of £7,000 towards the operating costs of the Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership and a grant of £10,000 towards the operating costs of the Lymington-Brockenhurst Community Rail Partnership.
- 1.2. The applications put forward by the Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership and the Lymington-Brockenhurst Community Rail Partnership (CRP) show that both organisations aim to promote greater use of Hampshire's local rail stations and rail services through co-operative working between local authorities, train operators, businesses and local volunteers for the benefit of the local community. Both CRPs are part funded from other sources e.g. rail operators and other local authorities, and grants are requested from the County Council for 2014/15.

2. Contextual information

- 2.1. **The Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership** was formed in 2007 and is one of three CRPs which currently operate in Hampshire. The route covered by this partnership is the Romsey – Salisbury rail service via Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh, Southampton Airport Parkway and Southampton Central. The CRP also covers stations at Bursledon, Netley and Hamble.
- 2.2. The Steering Group includes Hampshire County Council, South West Trains, First Great Western Trains, Network Rail, Test Valley Borough Council, Eastleigh Borough Council, Wiltshire Council and Southampton City Council. The Steering Group is supported by the CRP Officer (external to Hampshire County Council) and by a number of volunteer groups at stations on the line.

- 2.3. The County Council owns Chandler's Ford station and it is leased to South West Trains. This station benefits from a number of the projects run by the CRP. The station opened in 2003 and passenger numbers have increased considerably from approximately 155,000 in 2004/05 to 238,502 in 2012/13 (latest available figures).
- 2.4. **The Lymington-Brockenhurst Community Rail Partnership** was formed in 2008 and is one of three CRPs which currently operate in Hampshire. The route covered by this partnership is the Lymington Pier – Lymington Town - Brockenhurst branch line.
- 2.5. The Steering Group includes Hampshire County Council, South West Trains, Network Rail, Wightlink Ferries, Go South Coast Bus Company, New Forest District Council, New Forest National Park Authority and Brockenhurst Parish Council. The Steering Group is supported by the CRP Officer (external to Hampshire County Council), Lymington Town Team, and by the volunteer group, Friends of Lymington-Brockenhurst Line who cover all three stations on the line.
- 2.6. Typically, projects undertaken by the two CRPs include improving passenger facilities at stations (cycle parking facilities, bus/rail integration schemes, customer café at Romsey station, improved footpaths to stations, clearance of vegetation, litter picking at stations, community art schemes e.g. Lymington Town Trail, art at Wightlink passenger waiting area, station and train promotional events, passenger surveys, planting and flower baskets at stations, local publicity to encourage improvements to rail services and stations, providing links to local tourist attractions e.g. Mottisfont House and Gardens and Marwell Zoo buses, lobbying for improved services and facilities, running volunteer-led guided walks and "Breeze" bike rides from rail stations, transport-related safety work with children, and seeking and delivering funding for the CRP from outside bodies, including Government and local businesses.
- 2.7. The Partnerships aim to improve travel choices for Hampshire's residents through working together to improve rail services and facilities which will lead to greater use of local rail stations. The CRPs encourage co-operative working between local authorities, train companies, businesses and local volunteers.
- 2.8. The County Council values the work of both CRPs as they help to deliver against a number of the County Council's objectives, e.g. encouraging improved rail services and facilities, promotion of sustainable modes of transport, working in partnership with transport operators and local businesses to add value to the County Council's investment in transport, helping to reduce congestion on the road network, improving our quality of place and reducing the fear of crime at rail stations, encouraging and supporting local volunteer networks, engaging with and empowering local communities.

- 2.9. The County Council has provided a similar level of funding to both CRPs since their inception in 2007/2008.

3. Grant Applications

- 3.1. The application received from the Three Rivers Partnership states that any grant from Hampshire County Council would be used to assist with the costs of undertaking the following activities:

- i) The day-to day running of the Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership, working with Interested Parties and the recognised Steering group, submitting funding bids, and producing and delivering the CRP Business Plan. A major strand of the latter is engaging with the local community in the promotion and use of the Salisbury - Romsey – Southampton rail service with a particular emphasis on encouraging volunteer groups, individuals, businesses, scout groups and education establishments in various community activities.
- ii) In line with the Partnership Business Plan, to publicise rail travel opportunities along the Three Rivers Community rail partnership route through the preparation and publication of regular e-newsletters, printed travel guides, attending local community groups, fetes, meetings and exhibitions. This will seek to encourage greater use of smaller, local stations through the use of volunteer groups and localised publicity, whilst building links with local and regional events and other established and recognised groups.
- iii) The partnership will also continue to bring together local community groups, scouts, schools and excluded groups, by encouraging the use of rail from local and country stations which may be carried out by these groups. It is anticipated that there will be a reduction in anti-social behaviour around stations, and increased community cohesion in areas where projects are undertaken. It will also continue to encourage the introduction and promotion of bus links to outlying destinations from stations not normally connected to public transport, allowing elderly, young and disabled persons to access visitor attractions.
- iv) Regular station surveys will be undertaken to measure the success of initiatives and to help determine the future needs and aspirations of users and groups, which in turn is used to lobby the relevant train operator or Network Rail for their consideration.

4. Grant Award

- 4.1. The Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership has requested a grant of £7,000 from the County Council. The grant application shows that the expected running costs of the organisation in 2014/15 are estimated at £33,000 and that the majority of the remaining costs are expected to be

covered through contributions from rail companies, Eastleigh Borough Council, Wiltshire County Council, Test Valley Borough Council, other local organisations and revenue from facilities provided at local stations e.g. the café facility at Chandler's Ford station.

- 4.2. The Lymington-Brockenhurst Community Rail Partnership has requested a grant of £10,000 from the County Council. The grant application shows that the expected running costs of the organisation in 2014/15 is estimated at £20,800 and that the majority of the remaining costs are expected to be covered through contributions from transport operators, rail companies, New Forest National Park, New Forest District Council and other local organisations.
- 4.3. The grants would be funded under the Economy, Transport, and Environment Other Purposes Grants Stream. This grant stream is available to voluntary and community organisations that provide a transport service to the wider community. It can be used to support community transport projects or services which benefit the wider community and improve local accessibility.
- 4.4. This grant stream has a budget allocation of £25,000 for 2014/15 of which £6,500 has already been awarded leaving an available budget allocation of £18,500, against which this grant would be paid.
- 4.5. Historically the County Council has funded the Community Rail Partnerships on the basis that the CRPs add significant value to Hampshire's transport network at a minimal cost and help the County Council to deliver against a number of its objectives. Grants of £7,000 to the Three Rivers CRP and £10,000 to Lymington-Brockenhurst CRP are therefore recommended for 2014/15. The Council's normal conditions of grant would apply to these awards.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1. The Lymington-Brockenhurst CRP and the Three Rivers CRP aim to promote greater use of Hampshire's local rail stations through co-operative working between local authorities, train companies, local businesses and volunteers. Engaging with the local community represents a key activity of both schemes.
- 5.2. The County Council has previously provided financial support to the partnerships. Grants of £10,000 for Lymington-Brockenhurst CRP and £7,000 for Three Rivers CRP are proposed to assist with the running costs of the schemes during 2014/15, much of which are expected to be covered through contributions from rail companies, businesses, local councils, and revenue from facilities provided by the partnership at local stations.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1. That a grant of £7,000 be awarded to the Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership to contribute towards their operating costs.
- 6.2. That a grant of £10,000 be awarded to the Lymington-Brockenhurst Community Rail Partnership to contribute towards their operating costs.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
Community Transport Other Purposes Grant Application - Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership	5005	23 rd July 2013

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
HCC grant application forms received from the Three Rivers CRP and the Lymington - Brockenhurst CRP	Passenger Transport Group Capital House, Andover Road, Winchester

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equality Duty

1.1. The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

1.2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

1.3. The impact will be low as the grant funding will help to provide an improved environment at a number of Hampshire's rail stations, provide better access to rail stations (e.g. cycle parking, bus interchange improvements) community events promoting sustainable transport especially rail services. It is not anticipated that there will be a greater impact on any particular section of the community as all residents, employees and visitors close to the rail stations concerned will benefit from these grants.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1. The provision of improved rail station facilities and busier rail stations can improve feelings of personal security particularly for lone travellers.

3. Climate Change:

- 3.1. How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

Increased use of rail services as opposed to the private car helps to reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions from transport.

- 3.2. How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

Both CRPs promote sustainable modes of transport and in this respect play a role in helping Hampshire's residents and visitors to adapt to climate change and to the need to further mitigate climate change.