

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment
<b>Date:</b>	9 July 2015
<b>Title:</b>	Community Transport Other Purposes Grant Applications
<b>Reference:</b>	6804
<b>Report From:</b>	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 £3,000 towards the operating costs of the East Hants Community Rail Partnership, £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 East Hants Community Rail Partnership, Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership, and the Lymington-Brockenhurst Community Rail Partnership (CRP) show that these 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. All three CRPs are part funded from other sources e.g. rail operators and other local authorities, and grants are requested from the County Council for 2015/16.
- 1.3. This paper seeks to set out the background to the Community Rail Partnerships and the impact they have supporting the objectives of the County Council.

#### 2. Contextual information

- 2.1 **The East Hants Community Rail Partnership** was formed in 2013 and is one of three CRPs which currently operate in Hampshire. This partnership covers the rail stations of Liphook, Liss, Petersfield & Rowlands Castle, all of which are gateways providing sustainable access to the South Downs National Park.

- 2.2 The Steering Group includes Hampshire County Council, South Downs National Park Authority, East Hampshire District Council, South West Trains and Dept for Transport. The Steering Group is supported by the CRP Officer (external to Hampshire County Council), and by other local groups and local authorities, e.g. Petersfield Transport Group, Havant Borough Council, Sustrans, Rowlands Castle Parish Council and Liss Parish Council.
- 2.3 **The Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership** was formed in 2007. 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.
- 2.4 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.
- 2.5 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 244,338 in 2013/14 (latest available figures).
- 2.6 **The Lymington-Brockenhurst Community Rail Partnership** was formed in 2008. The route covered by this partnership is the Lymington Pier – Lymington Town - Brockenhurst branch line.
- 2.7 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.
- 2.8 Typically, projects undertaken by the 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 including music at stations, 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.
- 2.9 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 National Park Authorities, other local authorities, train companies, businesses and local volunteers.

- 2.10 The County Council values the work of 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.
- 2.11 The County Council has provided a similar level of funding to the Three Rivers CRP and Lymington-Brockenhurst Line CRP s since their inception in 2007/2008. This is the second year that East Hants CRP has applied for £3,000 of support since it was established in 2013.

### **3. Grant Applications**

- 3.1. The application received from the East Hants Partnership states that any grant from Hampshire County Council would be used to assist with the costs of undertaking the following activities:
  - a) Publicise rail travel opportunities along the route covered by the East Hampshire Community Rail Partnership route through the preparation and publication of regular e-bulletins, printed and web based travel guides, attending local community groups, fetes, meetings and exhibitions. The Partnership will develop volunteer community groups around stations and work with stakeholders to identify social, transport, economic and infrastructure opportunities, and implement as much as possible. This will include small scale infrastructure provision, implementation of rail-bus links, onward cycle promotion, provision of walks from stations, art at stations, celebratory events and policy and franchise discussions with all levels of rail industry, local and national government.
  - b) The partnership will bring together local community groups, environmental and social groups, and educational establishments, by encouraging the use of rail from country stations whilst encouraging one-off and on-going enhancements to stations carried out by said groups. Through this it is anticipated that there will be additional rail users encouraged onto the network, there will also be a reduction in crime levels and anti-social behaviour around stations, and increased community cohesion in areas where projects are undertaken. Overall, a more sustainable and better railway will be created which will increase accessibility, improve local economies and most importantly, develop the county's sustainable tourism industry in association with the South Downs National Park.

3.2. 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:

- a) Publicise rail travel opportunities along the Three Rivers Community rail partnership route through the preparation and publication of regular e-bulletins, printed and web based travel guides, attending local community groups, fetes, meetings and exhibitions. The Partnership will develop volunteer community groups around stations and work with stakeholders to identify social, transport, economic and infrastructure opportunities, and implement as much as possible. This will include small scale infrastructure provision, implementation of rail-bus links, onward cycle promotion, provision of walks from stations, art at stations, celebratory events and policy and franchise discussions with all levels of rail industry, local and national government.
- b) The Partnership will bring together local community groups, scouts, environmental and social groups, and schools including excluded pupil departments, by encouraging the use of rail from urban and country stations whilst encouraging one-off and on-going enhancements to stations carried out by said groups. Through this it is anticipated that there will be additional rail users encouraged onto the network, there will be a reduction in anti-social behaviour around stations, and increased community cohesion in areas where projects are undertaken. The Partnership 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.
- c) 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.

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

- a) Bring together local partners, transport operators, community and volunteer groups and local schools and colleges to encourage and sustain the use of a vital branch line rail link serving the New Forest National Park and to and from the ferry to the Isle of Wight for the benefit of local residents, commuters, tourists and students.
- b) Publicise rail travel opportunities along the Lymington-Brockenhurst branch line via social media updates e.g. Facebook and a website; production of an Inn Line guide; organisation of special celebratory events at the rail stations; small scale infrastructure provision; music at stations; promotion of rail-bus links; regeneration of the Lymington Town station building; provision of walks from stations; art at stations;

production of TravelSafe, a film to highlight the dangers for young people of wearing headphones whilst on stations; annual attendance with music and publicity at Community Rail in City Day at Waterloo; and policy and franchise discussions with all levels of rail industry, local and national government.

#### **4. Grant Award**

- 4.1. The East Hants Community Rail Partnership has requested a grant of £3,000 from the County Council. The grant application shows that the expected running costs of the organisation in 2015/16 are estimated at £21,430 and that the majority of the remaining costs are expected to be covered through contributions from the South Downs National Park, South West Trains, East Hampshire District Council and the Association of Community Rail Partnerships.
- 4.2. 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 2015/16 are estimated at £30,680 and that the majority of the remaining costs are expected to be covered through contributions from rail companies, Eastleigh Borough Council, Wiltshire Council, Test Valley Borough Council, Southampton City Council, the Association of Community Rail Partnerships and revenue from facilities provided at local stations e.g. the café facility at Chandler's Ford station.
- 4.3. 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 2015/16 is estimated at £23,130 and that the majority of the remaining costs are expected to be covered through contributions from transport operators, South West Trains, New Forest National Park, New Forest District Council and Brockenhurst Parish Council.
- 4.4. 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.
- 4.5. This grant stream has a budget allocation of £30,000 for 2015/16. While none of this has been awarded as yet, it is expected that a further £7,000 will be awarded against this grant stream.
- 4.6. 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 £3,000 to East Hants CRP, £7,000 to the

Three Rivers CRP and £10,000 to Lymington-Brockenhurst CRP are therefore recommended for 2015/16. The Council's normal conditions of grant would apply to these awards.

## **5. Conclusion**

- 5.1. The East Hants CRP, the Three Rivers CRP and the Lymington-Brockenhurst 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 £3,000 for East Hants, £7,000 for Three Rivers CRP and £10,000 for Lymington-Brockenhurst CRP are proposed to assist with the running costs of the schemes during 2015/16, much of which are expected to be covered through contributions from rail companies, businesses, local councils, and revenue from facilities provided by the partnerships at local stations.

## **6. Recommendations**

- 6.1. That a grant of £3,000 be awarded from the Community Transport Other Purposes Grant Stream to the East Hants Community Rail Partnership to contribute towards its operating costs.
- 6.2. That a grant of £7,000 be awarded from the Community Transport Other Purposes Grant Stream to the Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership to contribute towards its operating costs.
- 6.3. That a grant of £10,000 be awarded from the Community Transport Other Purposes Grant Stream to the Lymington-Brockenhurst Community Rail Partnership to contribute towards its operating costs.

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

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

**Other Significant Links**

<b>Links to previous Member decisions:</b>		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
Community Transport Other Purposes Grant Application	6198	4/11/14

**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>
None	

## **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:**

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 the proposal 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?

The Community Rail Partnerships 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.