

REPORT OF THE
Executive Member for Environment and Transport

PART II

205. BUS SUBSIDY REVIEW

1. On 27 July 2011 the Executive Member for Environment and Transport approved the renegotiation of local bus subsidy contracts and the retendering of bus contracts in Blackwater Valley, Eastleigh and the Alton, Andover and Burghclere Cango.

- **Blackwater Valley**

Approval was given to award tenders for new four year bus subsidy contracts for the Blackwater Valley area at a total cost of £281,706 per annum. The new tender will be issued for a reduced Saturday Fleet-Frimley Park Hospital service at a cost not exceeding £10,000 per annum and will be going to the Executive Member for Environment and Transport Decision Day on 3 October 2011.

- **Eastleigh**

Approval was given to award tenders for new four year bus subsidy contracts for the Eastleigh area at a cost to the bus subsidy budget of £360,570. The new tender will be issued for areas left unserved by the new Eastleigh-Chandler's Ford commercial service and will be going to the Executive Member for Environment and Transport Decision Day on 3 October 2011.

- **Alton, Andover and Burghclere Cango**

Various services were approved, including the award of two year contracts for the Andover, Burghclere and Alton Cango services at a maximum annual gross cost of £356,362, Taxishares in Andover and South Warnborough at an estimated cost of £20,000 and a conventional bus service for the Alton area at a cost of £26,364.

2. The new tenders mean that the County can retain the widest travel opportunities within available budget levels and contribute to the Council's corporate aim of supporting quality of life and well-being in Hampshire.

3. In making the decision, the Executive Member for Environment and Transport listened carefully to representations from across Hampshire and views of officers. The Director of Economy, Transport and Environment was given delegated authority, in consultation with the Executive Member for Environment and Transport, to vary specific proposals to better meet the requirements of the deputies, as long as equivalent overall budget savings are maintained.

4. In granting approval, the Executive Member noted that no area which currently has public transport would be left without some form of transport provision. In allocating subsidies the approach had been to move funding from late evening and Sunday services to keep weekday daytime journeys which carried more people and met the widest range of travel purposes for employment, education, doctor's appointments, local shopping and leisure. Fewer buses available would mean less choice and would require some people to adjust their lifestyle, but no community which previously had access to transport would be left isolated.

206. Further details can be found at www.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings.htm by typing in the relevant reference number:

- Bus Subsidy Review (search item reference 2710)

COUNCILLOR MEL KENDAL.
Executive Member For Environment and Transport.