

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Executive Decision Record**

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment
Date:	19 January 2016
Title:	Future Community Transport Operating Model
Reference:	7231
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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1. The decision:

- 1.1. That the proposed new operating model for procuring and supporting community transport services in Hampshire by the County Council, as outlined in paragraph 3.3 of the supporting report, be supported in principle for the purpose of consultation with existing providers, other funders and interested parties.
- 1.2. That the County Council consults with interested parties on a possible reduction to the discount which concessionary fares pass holders receive on Dial-a-Ride and Call and Go services.
- 1.3. That single tender contracts be awarded to the current service providers identified in paragraph 5.2 of the supporting report, to facilitate the continued provision of Minibus Group Hire Schemes, for a one year period commencing on 1 April 2016.
- 1.4. That a single tender contract be awarded to Test Valley Community Services for the provision of the Test Valley Call and Go service for a one year period commencing on 1 April 2016, subject to a matching contribution from Test Valley Borough Council being confirmed.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1 To obtain approval to consult with interested parties on a future approach for providing community transport services in Hampshire which would seek to deliver the maximum benefit from the available resources in a challenging financial environment. This will include changes to the way in which some services are procured in the future, including the discount which concessionary pass holders currently receive on Dial-a-Ride and Call and Go fares.

- 2.2 The award of the contracts to a number of existing community transport providers will help to maintain accessibility by providing people with access to key services including retail. For many people these services offer their only means of transport. The services provided under these contracts help to support the County Council's well-being agenda.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. One option would be to continue using the existing arrangements to provide services but this approach may not be viable longer term. The opportunity to modify delivery models to meet current changing needs and the transformation agenda would also be lost.
- 3.2. A second option could be not to award short term contracts to the Minibus Group Hire Schemes. This would leave people who rely on the current arrangements with no access to a number of services. Not providing financial support would almost certainly affect the longer term viability of these schemes and their ability to provide affordable transport to community groups and therefore reduce their contribution to community cohesion and the Older Person's Well-being Strategy. Together this would worsen accessibility in Hampshire.
- 3.3. A further option would be to award the Minibus Group Hire Contracts at reduced values. This would reduce service levels and could, depending on the funding reduction, significantly reduce the number of journey opportunities which existing users have. Voluntary groups may also find vehicle hire charges unaffordable and this could have an impact on their activities. Together this would worsen accessibility in Hampshire, with missed opportunities to support the well-being agenda.

4. Conflicts of interest:

- 4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker:
- 4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted:

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: none.

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

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by:

Date:

19 January 2016

**Executive Member for Economy, Transport and
Environment
Councillor Seán D T Woodward**