

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Environment and Transport
Date:	25 September 2018
Title:	Community Transport Contracts
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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1. The decision:

- 1.1. That the Executive Member for Environment and Transport gives authority to procure and spend up to the value of £6.24 million (for the maximum six year period), of which £3.6 million will be funded from Hampshire County Council resources, and to make the necessary contractual arrangements for the community transport services identified in Appendix 1 of the supporting report, to commence on 1 April 2019 for an initial period of 2 years, with the option to extend for up to a further four years, subject where appropriate to the agreement of other funders where they also contribute towards these services, and the availability of the County Council's own financial resources.
- 1.2. That the Executive Member for Environment and Transport authorises the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment to use funds from the vehicle replacement reserve up to the value of £1.88 million for vehicle replacement in accordance with the current Community Transport Operating Model.
- 1.3. That the overall approach to tendering, as set out in Section 6 of the supporting report, is agreed in principle, and that the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment is given delegated authority to finalise the detail in consultation with the Executive Member for Environment and Transport.
- 1.4. That approval is given for the County Council to enter into Deeds of Agreement for funding with each of the respective funding partners for the initial contract terms, and subsequently to cover any contract extensions as outlined in the supporting report.
- 1.5. That the overall approach to reviewing fares is agreed in principle as set out in the supporting report, and that authority is delegated to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment to develop future fares arrangements in consultation with the Executive Member for Environment and Transport.
- 1.6. That the County Council accepts bids from Section 19 Transport Act 1985 permit operators ("Section 19 Permit Operators") who can demonstrate that they have a main occupation other than that of being a road transport

provider, and that should the final licensing approach by the Department for Transport on the use of Section 19 Permits identify that an alternative method of operation is necessary, contract operators will be required to convert to this within an agreed timescale.

2. Reason for the decision:

- 2.1 The award of these contracts will help to improve accessibility by providing people with access to key services including retail. For many people these services offer an important means of travel. The transport services provided under these contracts help to support the County Council's aim of enabling people to live safe, healthy and independent lives.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. One option would be not to award any contracts for these services. This would leave users of Dial-a-Ride, Call and Go, and Shopper services who rely on the current service arrangements with reduced access to key services including retail. Not providing financial support to these services could affect the longer term viability of Minibus Group Hire Schemes, affecting their ability to provide affordable transport to community groups. Together this would worsen accessibility in Hampshire for the vulnerable client groups which currently benefit from these services. It would also not be compatible with the commitment which the County Council has already made to protect core funding for community transport services.
- 3.2. A further option would be to award 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 council's aim of enabling people to live safe, healthy, and independent lives. Again, this would not be compatible with the commitment which the County Council has already made to protect core funding for community transport services.

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:

I thank John Ellis from Yelabus attending to speak at my Decision Day, and will take into account the concerns raised by Yelabus and Cllr David Simpson in finalising contractual arrangements going forward. I am pleased note that there will also now be some further discussion with Mr Ellis before the tender documents are finalised.

Approved by:

Date:

25 September 2018

**Executive Member for Environment and Transport
Councillor Rob Humby**