

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Environment and Transport
Date:	11 July 2017
Title:	Community Transport Grant Applications 2017/18
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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1. The decision:

- 1.1. That a grant of £3,000 be awarded to the East Hants Community Rail Partnership to contribute towards its operating costs as detailed in the grant application for the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018.
- 1.2. That a grant of £7,000 be awarded to the Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership to contribute towards its operating costs as detailed in the grant application for the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018.
- 1.3. That a grant of £10,000 be awarded to the Lymington-Brockenhurst Community Rail Partnership to contribute towards its operating costs as detailed in the grant application for the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018.
- 1.4. That a grant of £6,500 be awarded to YelaBus for the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018, on the basis that, in addition to the Council's normal conditions of grant, the following grant conditions will also be met:

That YelaBus will:

- (i) Provide a 'group hire' minibus operation under Section 19 Standard Permits, issued under Section 19 of the Transport Act 1985 (as amended by the provisions in the Local Transport Act 2008), to enable eligible local and voluntary and community groups to hire minibuses at affordable rates.
- (ii) Maintain a pool of volunteer drivers so that minibuses can be provided for hire, complete with a Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme (MiDAS) trained driver where requested.
- (iii) Ensure that charges made to passengers and vehicle hirers include an element of depreciation so that YelaBus accrues money towards replacing its vehicles.

(iv) Provide quarterly activity and financial reports to the Council for the scheme.

(v) Work with the Council's Community Transport Team on community transport matters in Hart to identify the need for and assist in the development of local community transport initiatives.

1.5. That YelaBus be advised that any future decisions on financial support for its scheme will need to be considered within the context of the longer term approach to supporting similar schemes in Hampshire which the council has now agreed.

2. Reasons for the decision:

2.1 The applications put forward by the East Hants Community Rail Partnership, the Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership, and the Lymington-Brockenhurst Community Rail Partnership 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.

2.2 The work undertaken by the Community Rail Partnerships at small local stations helps to combat the fear of crime, make Hampshire safer and more secure for all, enhance our quality of place, and maximise the well being of the travelling public.

2.3 The award of the YelaBus grant will help to improve accessibility by providing people with access to key services and activities. For many people these services offer a valuable opportunity to travel. The resulting transport will help to support the County Council's well being agenda.

2.4 Operators will be reminded of the need to become more self sufficient in the future with diminishing budgets and community rail partnerships encouraged to look at alternative sources of funding, for example the new railway franchise operator.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

3.1 Not awarding the grants to the Community Rail Partnerships could result in local rail stations being closed, and on this basis this option has been rejected.

3.2 Not awarding a grant to YelaBus could result in some people not having access to key services and activities, and undermine the sustainability of the scheme in the longer term. On this basis, this option has also been rejected.

4. Conflicts of interest:

4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None

4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None

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:

11 July 2017

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