

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Economy, Transport, and Environment
Date:	28 th August 2020
Title:	Bus Service 95-96 Contract
Report From:	Lisa Cook, Local Bus Manager

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1. The decision:

- 1.1 That the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment approves the proposal set out in the supporting report for the continued provision of the 95/96 local bus service in East Stratton and Micheldever for a period of 12 months, at a cost based on existing service provision.
- 1.2 That authority is delegated to the Director of Economy, Transport, and Environment, in consultation with the Head of Legal Services, to make the necessary contractual and other arrangements for provision as set out in the supporting report.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1 At present, the market testing and retendering required to confirm longer term arrangements and changes for this transport service are not viable because of the Covid-19 pandemic and associated uncertainties, which are likely to increase costs. In addition, a Taxishare option, which has been previously considered for this area, is also not viable because of Government social distancing requirements.
- 2.2 Nonetheless, the proposals in this report will enable a key transport service to be maintained in East Stratton and Micheldever until such time as longer term arrangements can be put in place. This service contributes to the strategic objectives of the County Council, to ensure that transport services continue to support access to work, education, retail, and health facilities for the widest section of the community, thereby supporting quality of life and wellbeing while achieving value for money.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.2 Options 1. The 95/96 service was competitively tendered in February via the Public Bus Dynamic Purchasing System. A number of options were scoped including adjusted bus service patterns and the use of a Taxishare. However, the bids received were not financially viable within the current bus subsidy budget and were therefore rejected as options at the March Decision Day.
- 3.2 Option 2. Approval was granted at the Executive Member for Economy, Transport, and Environment Decision Day on 10th March for an alternative service at a cost of up to £16,390, the details to be determined under delegated authority in consultation with the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment. Approval was subsequently granted by the Director for Economy, Transport and Environment to extend existing arrangements to allow market testing to be carried out. This market testing has not been viable due to the national lockdown announced by the government on March 23rd, 2020, and subsequent Covid-19 recovery work. Therefore, the option to pursue market testing has been rejected.
- 3.3 Option 3. In line with other public transport services, levels of patronage on this service since Covid-19 have dropped dramatically. A Taxishare would usually be considered in such circumstances, but this is not currently a viable model due to government guidelines on social distancing, and has therefore been rejected.
- 3.4 Option 4. Do nothing. This option has been rejected because without making extended interim arrangements until such time as a full review/retender becomes viable, transport provision in this area would diminish to the detriment of local residents.

3. Conflicts of interest:

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

4. **Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel:** None.

5. **Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent:** Not applicable.

6. **Statement from the Decision Maker:**

Approved by:

Date:

28th August 2020

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