

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Highways Operations
Date:	23 September 2021
Title:	Future Partnership Arrangement for MiDAS
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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1. The decision:

- 1.1. That the Executive Member for Highways Operations approves that Hampshire County Council enters into a Partnership Agreement with the Community Transport Association and Motability to continue the development and operation nationally of the Minibus Driver Assessment and Training Scheme (MiDAS), subject to a satisfactory outcome of negotiations.
- 1.2. That the Executive Member for Highways Operations approves the principles set out in the supporting report, and that authority is delegated to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment to develop the detail and finalise the arrangements for any Partnership Arrangement according to these principles in consultation with the Head of Legal Services.
- 1.3. That authority is delegated to the Director of Economy, Transport, and Environment, in consultation with the Head of Legal Services, to enter into a Partnership Agreement and to manage the scheme for its duration.

2. Reason for the decision:

- 2.1. These proposals will enable key transport services, particularly for older and disabled people, to be provided by drivers and escorts who have been trained with the necessary appropriate skills. This should ensure that people are transported as safely as possible and in line with the latest good practice so that users have both the confidence to use these services and a positive experience when they do make their journeys. Many of these transport services are key for older and disabled people helping them to access essential services and live independent lives. These services and the proposals in this report both contribute to the strategic objectives of the County Council by helping older and disabled people to live safe, healthy, and independent lives.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. Option1 - The County Council develops MiDAS on its own. The Council would end up bearing the full cost of redesigning MiDAS, with economies of scale being lost, and this may limit the extent to which the scheme may be able to be

developed. The Community Transport Association and Motability will both bring their individual expertise to the proposed Partnership arrangement and therefore the opportunity to deliver a more rounded and comprehensive product which meets the needs of the market may be lost. The opportunity to upscale the MiDAS training offer and its reach would also be lost.

- 3.2. Option 2 – The County Council could stop operating MiDAS. This would have a detrimental effect on minibus safety with drivers no longer being trained to a common standard whilst some drivers and passenger assistants may receive no training at all. Over time the standard of minibus transport would deteriorate, the safety of passengers may be put at risk, passengers may lose the confidence to use services and no longer be able to access key services which would affect their independent living.

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:

**Executive Member for Highways Operations
Councillor Russell Oppenheimer**

23 September 2021