

## **UPDATE ON CONCESSIONARY TRANSPORT REVIEW**

**Councillor Winn**

**Cabinet Member for Communities**

### **1 Purpose**

- 1.1 To provide an update to Members on progress made since Cabinet met on 16 October 2018.
- 1.2 To provide a new recommendation, following the recommendations to retain some of the ring fenced budget for a time limited period for the purpose of funding new or existing community transport schemes.

### **2 Recommendations**

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| 2.1 Cabinet is recommended to release the ring-fenced remaining balance in this year's budget of £30,155 and release the £33,400 Concessionary transport budget for 2019/20 into the wider council budget. |
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### **3 Background**

- 3.1 Please see Appendix 1 for a copy of the Concessionary Transport Review presented to Cabinet on 16 October 2018.
- 3.2 As part of the review, a mapping exercise took place of all known transport schemes in the vale together with their criteria and locality served. This is included within the Appendices attached to the Cabinet report from 16<sup>th</sup> October 2018.
- 3.3 Following the cessation of the discretionary taxi token scheme, Members wished to use any remaining funding to pursue the pump priming of another community based scheme, which would serve residents within the town of Aylesbury (who were the main recipients of the taxi token scheme).
- 3.4 Following the February 2019 Budget Meeting, it was agreed that any remaining funding would be ring-fenced for a suitable alternative scheme until the end of the current financial year. The balance in this year's current fund is £30,155 and is not capital funding so is only available until 31 March 2019.

### **4 Update**

- 4.1 Since the last Cabinet report, the following work has been carried out to try and identify an alternative scheme:

- 4.2 Bucks County Council Rural Transport Review

In 2018, BCC conducted a Supported Rural Bus Review of routes it currently funds and the results of the consultation are due out in late Spring 2019. Findings from this consultation may inform the future resourcing of community transport across the county.

- 4.3 Aylesbury Town Council

In 2018, the Town Council was asked if they wished to respond to the transport needs of Aylesbury town residents and were given details of a Taxi concessionary scheme, which ran in the south of the county. Alternatively the Council could pursue a scheme of their choosing. They were contacted again in 2019, but were reluctant to embark on a scheme whilst uncertainty

remained around whether AVDC or BCC would contribute to a scheme leading up to and post Unitary.

#### 4.4 Community Impact Bucks (CIB) – Transport Hub

CIB approached AVDC with the proposal of setting up a volunteer car scheme that would meet the transport needs of Aylesbury town residents and required funding for a Scheme Co-ordinator to recruit and train volunteers and manage the scheme until a volunteer co-ordinator was appointed. The funding commitment sought was £5,000 per year for two years.

AVDC asked for assurances that the scheme would represent value for money and that if the scheme failed to recruit that funds would be returned. CIB did not feel they could commit to being measured on this as they would incur staffing costs irrespective of the number of recipients to benefit.

#### 4.5 Bucks Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)

The CCG was approached by AVDC to join as a funding partner in the CIB scheme. It was understood that CIB had approached a number of organisations previously, including the CCG and Transport for Bucks. Although the CCG were very supportive of the scheme and would promote it through GP surgeries, they could not fund an Aylesbury centric scheme.

#### 4.6 Other funding options available for community transport schemes.

LAF fund:

LAF funding for community transport schemes in 2019 had already been committed as of 31.08.2018. The next round of funding for 2020 is currently open and closes on 31.08.2019.

Most LAFs prioritise funding for community transport.

Our Vale:

AVDC will pledge up to £5,000 for any project that can demonstrate community engagement and regeneration or any project can apply if the outcome will help to benefit local communities in the Vale.

CIB Transport Hub:

Any transport scheme wishing to set up can apply to the Transport Hub for free expertise, funded by BCC.

As yet no transport scheme has been identified by the Transport Hub.

### 5. **Conclusion**

As no suitable alternative scheme has been identified in the timeframe allotted, it is recommended to release the ring-fenced remaining balance in this year's budget of £30,155 and release the £33,400 Concessionary transport budget for 2019/20 into the wider council budget.

### 6. **Resource Implications**

Officer time has been spent reviewing the scheme and looking at sourcing alternative options going forward.

A potential saving of £30,155 from the current budget for this financial year and £33,400 per annum for 2019/20 if AVDC cease to offer a non-statutory concessionary transport scheme.

Contact Officer  
Background papers

Elaine Hassall, 01296 585364  
None