

SUBJECT:	<i>DIAL A RIDE</i>
REPORT OF:	<i>Graham Harris, Healthy Communities Portfolio Holder</i>
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	<i>Martin Holt, Head of Healthy Communities</i>
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WARD/S AFFECTED	<i>All</i>

1. Purpose of Report

To extend the current Service Level agreement with Dial a Ride and agree community grant funding of £20,200/annum to provide access to transport by vulnerable persons.

RECOMMENDATION

To agree to an annual payment of £20,200 and continuation of the current service level agreement until a review of the SLA funding has been completed.

2. Executive Summary

3. Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 To support access to transport by vulnerable persons.

3.2 To enable compliance with the Buckinghamshire Compact with the voluntary and community sector.

4. Content of Report

4.1 Following a review of the Service Level Agreements in August 2011 Cabinet agreed to continue to support the Chiltern Dial a Ride service with annual funding of £20,200. This followed a review of the mid-term financial strategy which reduced the total costs of transport for vulnerable persons.

4.2 The period 2011/12 saw Dial a Ride managing difficult and challenging circumstances during which it lost its South Bucks funding and focused its delivery in the Chiltern District.

4.3 Following the appointment of a new board, rebranding and the development of a new business plan, the organisation has flourished and is now delivering services through volunteer drivers, including weekend trips, shopping trips and school contract as well as hospital transport schemes. The organisation is now in a surplus position and since 1st April 2015, following the closure of Wycombe Dial a Ride; it has

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expanded operations to include Wycombe District for which a separate funding agreement is in place.

4.4 The organisation has managed to successfully diversify and expand utilising its volunteer base in accordance with Chiltern District Council's aspirations.

4.5 A review of community grant funding is due following the introduction of the shared service, which as a result of delays has meant this work has not been progressed. It is recommended that the Council continues to fund Dial a Ride in accordance with the recommendation from Cabinet in 2011 until the outcome of that review.

4.6 The Bucks Compact identifies that 12 weeks' notice of funding reductions should occur and that any decision to end funding should be notified 12 months in advance. Dial a Ride has not been notified of any reductions of its funding and the previous Portfolio Holder was supportive of the funding continuing. To avoid placing the organisation in difficulties MT agreed to approve a six month payment of £10,100 and to seek PAG approval to the annual funding in June.

5. Consultation

Not Applicable

6. Options

- 1. To agree to an annual payment of £20,200 and continuation of the current service level agreement until a review of the SLA funding has been completed.**

7. Corporate Implications

- 1. Financial – The 2015/16 budget identifies the continuation funding of £20,200 to Chiltern Dial a Ride*
- 2. Legal – Chiltern Dial a Ride enables very elderly and disabled persons in Chiltern to access transport for shopping and leisure trips and GP and health care centres. Removal of the funding without notification would have an adverse impact on the organisation and any decision at the current time without a full review of SLA funding may be challenged under the Equalities Act.*

8. Links to Council Policy Objectives

This proposal supports the objectives in the Joint Business Plan in relation to working to support healthier and safer local communities;

9. Next Step

Officers will draft the SLA for agreement and continue to make annual payments as agreed under the SLA. A review of SLA funding will be brought to Cabinet following the introduction of shared services.

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Background Papers:	It is a legal requirement that we make available any background papers relied on to prepare the report and should be listed at the end of the report (copies of Part 1 background papers for executive decisions must be provided to Democratic Services)
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