

Single Member Cabinet Decision

Executive
Forward Plan
Reference

E2842

Voluntary sector funding applications for community transport 2016-17

Decision maker/s	
The Issue	<i>To consider applications for grants to provide community transport services in 2016-17.</i>
Decision Date	12-Apr-16
The decision	<p>The Cabinet Member AGREED that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) That funding proposals set in the report be approved. 2) That the Divisional Director for Environmental Services be given delegated powers to reallocate funds, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, from approved projects that become unviable owing to the level of funding allocated or to a change in circumstances of the applicant group, should such situations arise during the year. 3) That the Divisional Director for Environmental Services be given delegated powers to negotiate new service level agreements with Keynsham Dial-a-Ride and Midsomer Norton & Radstock Dial-a-Ride to take effect from 1 October 2016 and, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, to agree the appropriate levels of payment for those agreements.
Rationale for decision	<p>The recommended awards will ensure the continuation of existing community transport services and will help the Council meet its objectives.</p> <p>The Council's Public Transport Team has considered the applications against set criteria and assessed value for money by comparing the cost per trip of comparable schemes, based on the information that applicants provide.</p> <p>One scheme applied for funding in excess of the current level (allowing for inflation) but it is recommended that the funding they receive be maintained at the 2015-16 level. The scheme concerned has been advised of the recommendation and confirm that the recommended award would not give rise to a substantial curtailment of the services they currently provide.</p>
Financial and budget implications	<p>Eight community transport providers applied for funding of £98,342 in total for 2016-17. The applications have been evaluated and assessed for value for money. With one exception, all schemes applied for funding at or around the 2015-16 level. One scheme applied for a significant increase in funding. In view of the reduction in fuel costs over the past 15 months, it is recommended that funding for individual schemes be capped at the</p>

	<p>2015-16 level. Awards totalling £91,703 are recommended.</p> <p>The 3 dial-a ride schemes (Bath, Keynsham and Midsomer Norton & Radstock) do not apply for annual grants because they operate under service level agreements (SLAs) that expire in March 2017 (Bath) and September 2016 (the other two). Funding of the dial-a-ride schemes is subject to an annual inflation-related adjustment, based on changes in transport industry costs. Total funding for dial-a-ride schemes will be equivalent to an annual figure of £191,860 based on the current arrangements. Funding for the second half of 2016-17 will be subject to negotiation of new SLAs for Keynsham Dial-a-Ride and Midsomer Norton & Radstock Dial-a-Ride.</p> <p>If the recommendations are accepted and if overall funding for the new dial-a-ride SLAs is maintained at the same level in the second half of 2016-17, total spending on community transport support in 2016-17 will be £283,563, which is to be managed within existing budgets.</p> <p>In addition to support for community transport services, the Council provides funding for safeguarding checks for paid staff, training for trustees in their roles and responsibilities, and basic first-aid training for volunteer drivers. This is estimated to cost in the region of £1k and will be managed within the Public Transport budget.</p>
Issues considered	<i>Social Inclusion; Customer Focus; Sustainability; Human Resources; Property; Young People; Equality (age, race, disability, religion/belief, gender, sexual orientation); Human Rights; Corporate; Health & Safety; Impact on Staff; Other Legal Considerations</i>
Consultation undertaken	
How consultation was carried out	
Other options considered	None.
Signatures of Decision Makers	
Date of Signature	