



RHONDDA CYNON TAF

RECORD OF DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION

Key Decision ✓

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY TRANSPORT FUNDING IN 2016/17

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

In accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation, this report has been prepared to accompany the intended officer decision of the Director Of Highways And Streetcare Services as described below.

This report details the award of grant funding to the community transport organisations in Rhondda Cynon Taf in 2015/16.

DELEGATED DECISION

It is agreed that:

- (a) the contents of the funding submissions, prepared by each of the three community transport organisations in Rhondda Cynon Taf and shown in Appendix A, are noted.
- (b) the level of grant funding available from the Council's resources and through the Welsh Government's Bus Services Support Grant (BSSG) is noted.
- (c) the Council's provision of financial assistance in 2016/17 of £80,296 to Accessible Caring Transport, £57,948 to TraVol Community Transport and £13,847 to Village and Valleys Community Transport is noted for the reasons set out in this report.
- (d) the Council continues to explore ways in which it can provide practical assistance to these organisations.

 Chief Officer Signature	NIGEL WHEELER Print Name	1/8/2016. Date
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The decision is taken in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government Act, 2000 (Executive Functions) and in the terms set out in Section 5 of Part 3 of the Council's Constitution.

CONSULTATION

A. Morgan

1/8/2016

CONSULTEE CABINET MEMBER SIGNATURE

DATE

R J White

01.08.06.

CONSULTEE OFFICER SIGNATURE

DATE

CALL IN PROCEDURE RULES.

IS THE DECISION DEEMED URGENT AND NOT SUBJECT TO CALL-IN BY THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:

NO ✓

Reason for urgency:.....

If deemed urgent - signature of Mayor or Deputy Mayor or Head of Paid Service confirming agreement that the proposed decision is reasonable in all the circumstances for it being treated as a matter of urgency, in accordance with the overview and scrutiny procedure rule 17.2:

.....
(Mayor)

.....
(Dated)

NB - If this is a reconsidered decision then the decision Cannot be Called In and the decision will take effect from the date the decision is signed.

FOR CABINET OFFICE USE ONLY

PUBLICATION & IMPLEMENTATION DATES

PUBLICATION

Publication on the Councils Website:- 1st August 2016

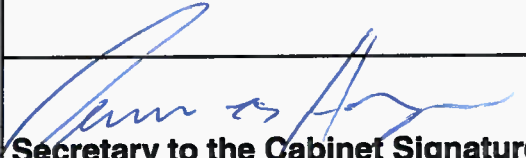
DATE

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION

Note: This decision will not come into force and may not be implemented until the expiry of 5 clear working days after its publication to enable it to be the subject to the Call-In Procedure in Rule 17.1 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

Subject to Call In the implementation date will be 9th August 2016

DATE

 Secretary to the Cabinet Signature	CHRISTIAN SS HADACAN Print Name	1/8/16 Date
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Further Information

Directorate:	Corporate and Frontline Services
Contact Name	Charlie Nelson
Designation:	Transportation Manager
Tel. No.	01443 494818

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2016-17

**REPORT TO ACCOMPANY A DECISION OF THE DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS AND
STREETCARE SERVICES**

Part 1	Item No.
COMMUNITY TRANSPORT FUNDING IN 2016/17	

DATE: AUGUST 2016

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report details the award of grant funding to the community transport organisations in Rhondda Cynon Taf in 2015/16.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that:

- (a) the contents of the funding submissions, prepared by each of the three community transport organisations in Rhondda Cynon Taf and shown in Appendix A, are noted.
- (b) the level of grant funding available from the Council's resources and through the Welsh Government's Bus Services Support Grant (BSSG) is noted.
- (c) the Council's provision of financial assistance in 2016/17 of £80,296 to Accessible Caring Transport, £57,948 to TraVol Community Transport and £13,847 to Village and Valleys Community Transport is noted for the reasons set out in this report.
- (d) the Council continues to explore ways in which it can provide practical assistance to these organisations.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To provide support for the Community Transport operations within Rhondda Cynon Taf, having assessed the funding submissions against the available resources.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 As part of its policy to reduce social exclusion in Rhondda Cynon Taf, the Council has been providing financial support to local community transport organisations who provide door-to-door accessible transport services for those residents who are unable to travel on the scheduled local bus network.
- 4.2 Each year, the three community transport organisations in Rhondda Cynon Taf (Accessible Caring Transport, TraVol Community Transport and Village and Valleys

Community Transport) are invited to submit bids for funding from the Council's Community Transport Fund, which is made up from the Council's own resources and the funding for community transport that the Council receives from the Welsh Government (WG).

- 4.3 This bidding process enables the Council to demonstrate that its financial support for community transport is being spent effectively and transparently. The Community Transport Association advocates such a transparency approach to the support of community transport operations.

5. ISSUES AFFECTING GRANT FUNDING

- 5.1 Following the Council's decision in May 2014 to implement "Medium Term Service Planning – Service Change Proposals", support for community transport from the Council's own resources was reduced to £25,501 in 2015/16. This was particularly challenging for the operators in Rhondda Cynon Taf, especially as it coincided with WG no longer providing funding under its Access to NHS Services scheme.
- 5.2 In order to protect Accessible Caring Transport's RangeRider demand responsive services into Ysbyty Cwm Cynon and TraVol's similar Blue Dragon services into Royal Glamorgan Hospital, both of which were under notice of reduced provision, additional resources were found in the autumn to ensure that the ongoing operation of the services. This level of support is required to maintain the status quo moving forward, given the loss of external support, and a sum of £76,011 has therefore been identified from within the Council's resources.
- 5.3 For 2016/17, the Council continues to receive Bus Services Support Grant (BSSG) from WG. Once again, it is being administered for WG in the Council's area by Monmouthshire County Council, working on behalf of the South East Wales Bus Funding Project Board. With the overall BSSG funding for the region having been reduced by 1.79%, the Board reduced all its budget headings accordingly and therefore the Council has allocated £76,147 to provide good quality community transport services that deliver value for money and integrate with the public transport network.
- 5.4 With pressure on the funding allocated regionally, a decision was taken by the Board not to request bids in 2016/17 under the Community Transport Capital Enhancement Scheme. In the past, this small fund has assisted the three local operators to top up other funds that have been secured and have enabled the purchase of new or newer vehicles. In order to maintain such opportunities a small one off fund of £17,500 has been secured from the Council's resources.
- 5.5 In total, having deducted payments for public transport contracts, the Community Transport Fund in 2016/17 amounts to £152,091. This fund will be distributed accordingly in order to ensure co-ordination, to assist the community transport organisations within Rhondda Cynon Taf in the planning of their operations and to enable the continued operation of community orientated demand responsive services in an attempt to stimulate greater user demand. During the year, the Council will work closely with the Community Transport Association Wales and the three local operators to identify alternative funding streams.

6. AWARD OF GRANT FUNDING

6.1 The three community transport organisations in Rhondda Cynon Taf have been asked to set out their plans for utilising the Council's community transport funding. The information submitted is included in Appendix A, though the combined amount of funding requested by the three community transport organisations exceeds this figure. It can also be seen that the proposed uses for the grant money differs between each community transport organisation, reflecting the local needs and priorities.

6.2 Having reviewed the bids, it is proposed that financial assistance be provided to each of the community transport organisations in Rhondda Cynon Taf as per the details set out in the summary table below.

ORGANISATION	PURPOSE OF FUNDING	SIZE OF AWARD
Accessible Caring Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management and administration of the RangeRider service. • Drivers, on costs, training and marketing. • Contribution to PCV MoT and tyres. • Contribution to replacement vehicle. 	£36,300 £35,619 £ 1,080 £ 7,297 £80,296
TraVol Community Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution to the running costs of the Blue Dragon Section 22 demand responsive routes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wages, NI and Pensions. ○ Fuel, vehicle insurance, repairs and servicing. ○ Administration. • Contribution to replacement vehicle. 	£25,306 £16,063 £ 9,561 £ 7,018 £57,948
Village & Valleys Community Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer costs and training. • Contribution toward driver and office wages. • Contribution to premises, rates and utilities. • Contribution to replacement vehicle. 	£ 4,500 £ 4,740 £ 1,422 £ 3,185 £13,847

6.3 These figures have been determined after taking account of the following criteria:

- the extent to which the award will be used to maintain the existing level of operations. For example, use of administrative systems to improve vehicle utilisation.

- the type of journeys operated for residents. For example, are they duplicating journeys that residents could potentially make on local bus services?
- evidence of partnership working with other bodies. For example, Communities First, Local Health Board.
- the commitment to maintain community focussed Section 22 demand responsive services. For example RangeRider and Blue Dragon.

7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The funding allocations demonstrate that, in operating door-to-door transport services for people with a mobility impairment, the three community transport organisations are complying with the Council's commitments to equality and diversity.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 7.1 Of the total commitment of £152,091, a sum of £76,147 will be met from within the BSSG allocation from Welsh Government for the provision of good quality community transport services that deliver value for money and integrate with the public transport network. The balance is made up from existing budget allocations.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATION(S) OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 8.1 There is no statutory basis to provide community transport services.

9. LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES/ SIP / FUTURE GENERATIONS – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

- 9.1 This proposal reinforces the priorities set out in the Rhondda Cynon Taf Single Integrated Plan by promoting independence and positive lives for everyone. A more inclusive service delivers greater benefits to the community..

10. CONCLUSION

- 10.1 The action outlined in this report has provided all three of the community transport organisations in Rhondda Cynon Taf with support in 2016/17 and should assist them in planning, maintaining and delivering their operations.
- 10.2 The total available within the Community Transport Fund in 2016/17 is £41,622 more than in 2015/16. This reflects the need to protect Accessible Caring Transport, TraVol Community Transport and Village and Valleys Community Transport from the loss of WG Access to NHS Services Fund and the Regional Capital Enhancement Fund as they seek to maintain their existing service provision for those who otherwise would face social exclusion. Every effort will be made during the financial year to work with the Community Transport Association Wales and the three local operators to identify alternative funding streams.