

CABINET

12 SEPTEMBER 2012

SOUTHWICK COMMUNITY TRANSPORT SCHEME

REPORT OF HEAD OF ACCESS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

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RECENT REFERENCES:

None

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report seeks approval for a £10,000 contribution to Hampshire County Council as part of a package of funding (including contributions from the County Council and the Parish Councils) to enhance an existing taxishare service.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the contribution towards this scheme of £10,000 be approved for payment to Hampshire County Council.

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##### DETAIL:

##### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report seeks approval for a £10,000 contribution to Hampshire County Council as part of a package of funding (including contributions from the County Council and the Parish Councils) to enhance an existing taxishare service. It follows from an in-principle commitment to support this rural initiative given by the then Administration at February Council, as part of the Budget Speech.
- 1.2 This scheme has been the result of a long period of engagement with primarily Southwick Parish Council after the 38/138 bus service was withdrawn. The parish is unhappy with the level of provision that the replacement Taxishare service offers and have been seeking an improvement to this.
- 1.3 The enhancement to the service which can be provided by the additional funding package will include the use of a larger vehicle and an extension of timetable to include trips for commuters / scholars from Southwick, North Boarhunt and Wickham and into Cosham. Here college students/employees can pick up onward transport to college/work and elderly people can access Queen Alexandra Hospital.
- 1.4 There will be a charge for passengers to use the service which helps offset the cost. The current funding commitments will enable the scheme to run for 3 years. It is intended that this pilot operational period be reviewed to see if the scheme can be sustainable with modest financial support in future.

##### OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

##### 2 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND CHANGE PLANS (RELEVANCE TO):

- 2.1 The scheme will contribute towards our Access to Services priority within the Community Strategy, will assist young people in rural communities to access education and training opportunities, and so jobs.

### 3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 3.1 The recommended support forms part of a funding package which also includes £36,000 from HCC and £4,500 from the local parishes affected. It is a one off contribution which will help to get the scheme started, and will be drawn from agreed Commissioning budgets. HCC intend to use the three year period of operation to monitor the service closely to ensure it meets the needs of the community.

### 4 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 None

### BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

None

### APPENDICES:

None