

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (DEFERRED ITEM)

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 Members to consider a report which was deferred from 15 November 2005 meeting.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This item was deferred from the meeting of 15 November in order for officers to obtain further information from Wyvern Community Transport as to their membership, passenger journeys and customer usage reports. In addition Members were keen to have sight of Reports and Minutes leading up to the Head of Service's recommendations contained in the original report, which is reproduced as Appendix 1.
- 2.2 The history of Community Transport is well documented in the Reports and Minutes reproduced as appendices. In particular, Members' attention is drawn to the Overview and Scrutiny process commissioned by this Committee in July 2004 and which Members described as:-

“.....a good example of an overview and scrutiny review, which had involved gathering evidence and included site visits to two diverse organisations together with Member discussion at three Committee meetings.”

and that

“Members were reassured that this Council is only a custodian of the money which it transfers on behalf of the County Council to the Community Transport Trust”. (Minute 120/05 refers)

3 INFORMATION REQUESTED

- 3.1 The Head of Service has been in contact with Wyvern Community Transport Trust who have provided the following information:-

Individual Members at 1 November 05	=	270
Group Members at 1 November 05	=	25
Journeys made 1 April to 1 November 05	=	2379
Average number of journeys per Member	=	9
Maximum number of journeys by any individual	=	33

Purpose of journeys	Social or Day Centre	=	955
	Health Related	=	897
	Shopping	=	480
	Education	=	37
	Group	=	10

3.2 In February 2004 (Minute 73/04) Members set the following targets for the Scheme:-

- Maintain level of 300 journeys per month for 1 April 2004 to 30 September 2004
- Increase membership of scheme to 100 for 1 April 2004 to 30 September 2004
- Increase level of journeys to 500 per month for 1 October 2004 to 31 March 2005
- Increase Membership of the scheme to 150 for 1 October 2004 to 31 March 2005.

4 SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

4.1 The Head of Service has reproduced a number of earlier Reports and Minutes for Members' consideration. For ease of reference these are in reverse chronological order (latest report first).

- **Appendix 2** – Finance and Procedures Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 21 July 2005
- **Appendix 3** – Policy and Finance Committee – 12 July 2005
- **Appendix 4** – Policy and Finance Committee – 7 April 2005
- **Appendix 5** – Finance and Procedures Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 17 March 2005
- **Appendix 6** – Policy and Finance Committee – 8 February 2005
- **Appendix 7** – Finance and Procedures Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 16 September 2005
- **Appendix 8** – Policy and Finance Committee – 8 July 2005
- **Appendix 9** – Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 6 July 2004

- **Appendix 10** – Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 20 April 2004
- **Appendix 11** – Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 11 February 2004
- **Appendix 12** – Environmental Services Committee – 2 October 2003
- **Appendix 13** – Environmental Services Committee – 3 July 2003
- **Appendix 14** – Environmental Services Committee – 5 June 2003
- **Appendix 15** – Transportation and Environmental Services Committee – 30 January 2002

5 PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

- 5.1 In order to obtain the financial support for Community Transport (including Taxi Vouchers) it is imperative to sign up to a new agreement. Essex County Council has placed a deadline date for receipt of a signed agreement as 28 February 2006. Continued participation in the Agreement will ensure a flow of funds to properly resource these Schemes.
- 5.2 Withdrawal from the County Agreement would have a detrimental financial impact on the core budget of around £26,000 and probably result in Wyvern CT applying directly to ECC for funding.
- 5.3 Elsewhere on this Agenda Members can refer to another Report from the Head of Service on Taxi Voucher usage and note that over the first three accounting dates (April, July, October 2005) redemption levels have reached only 52% of vouchers issued. This is a significant reduction on this time last year when redemptions were running at around 70%.

6 RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**
- (1) That Rochford District Council enters into a five-year funding agreement with Essex County Council.
 - (2) That 66% of funds received be earmarked for Wyvern Community Transport.
 - (3) That funding for Taxi Vouchers remains at £106,000 in the 2006/07 Budget.

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Background Papers:-

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