

## ISSUES ARISING FROM FINANCE & PROCEDURES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

### 1 COMMUNITY TRANSPORT – REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING

- 1.1 This item of business was referred to the Policy & Finance Committee by the Finance & Procedures Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 16 September 2004 with the recommendation that funding of up to £15,500 be made available during this financial year to the Community Transport scheme from the Essex County Council community transport grant and that a detailed examination of community transport provision be conducted by the Committee over the next six months. A copy of the officer's report is appended.

### 2 DISCUSSION

- 2.1 The Members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee noted that the County Council had agreed to extend its funding of the community transport service for an additional year, to 2006. It was further noted that additional income to that identified in the officer's report had been secured from the STAR Partnership for the transportation of a toy library around the District.
- 2.2 Members were advised that, due to the high level of commitment required in terms of time, it had not been possible to secure volunteer drivers for the scheme and that it had therefore been necessary to recruit vocational drivers. It was also drawn to Members' attention that this was the first year of operation of the scheme and, as such, there had been some initial start-up costs.
- 2.3 The majority of the Members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee were of the view that there was great merit in the service as it provided transport to elderly residents with mobility problems, but that it was important to address the issue of the gap between income and expenditure. There was a general consensus that funding should be provided for the scheme during this financial year from within the Essex County Council grant, while in the meantime work was undertaken to assess the viability of the service.

### 3 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**
- (1) That funding of up to £15,500 be made available during this financial year to the Community Transport Scheme from the Essex County Council community transport grant.

- (2) That a detailed examination of community transport provision be conducted over the next 6 months by the Finance & Procedures Overview & Scrutiny Committee, to be concluded by March 2005. (HRHM)

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**Background Papers:**

None

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