
COMMUNITY TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 Members to consider a revised Community Transport Partnership Agreement which will span the period to March 2011 with associated funding.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 In 2004/05 Members agreed to extend by one year the existing Community Transport Partnership Agreement with Essex County Council (ECC) so that it could be reviewed as part of a co-ordinated approach to the County's Passenger Transport Plan. That extended agreement expires on 31 March 2006.
- 2.2 In order for funding to continue it will be necessary to enter into a new agreement with ECC by 28 February 2006.
- 2.3 This Council provides or sponsors two types of Community Transport:-
Wyvern Community Transport – which provides pre-booked travel in a community bus
Rochford's Taxi Voucher Scheme – which provides on-demand travel for journeys commencing or ending within the Rochford District to qualifying persons.
- 2.4 In 2005/6 the Council received £63,244 from ECC for the provision of these services.
- 2.5 In March 2005 the Council agreed to long-term funding for Wyvern CT (then known as Community Transport for the Rochford District) and earmarked £42,000 (66% of the budget allocation) for the scheme. The remaining £21,244 was used to support the Taxi Voucher Scheme, where overall, £106,000 was allocated for voucher issue.

3 PROPOSALS FOR THE FUTURE

- 3.1 A copy of the 1st draft agreement is attached.
- 3.2 Following protracted negotiations with all ECC funded Districts and Boroughs a revised formula has been agreed for grant distribution. This is the Fair Funding Formula (FFF) described under Appendix A of the draft agreement.
- 3.3 The FFF works to Rochford's advantage and results in an anticipated grant for 2006/7 of £77,000, an uplift of 22% over the 2005/6 figure shown in paragraph 2.4 above.

3.4 The Community Transport Partnership Agreement will be standard for all Districts and Boroughs save for Appendix B which should document the funding arrangements between the Council and the Community Transport provider (in Rochford's case Wyvern CT).

3.5 The Head of Service is proposing the wording in Appendix B should read:

“Rochford District Council shall provide funding to Wyvern Community Transport scheme for the duration of this agreement. That funding shall represent 66% of the Community Transport Grant received from Essex County Council and shall be paid in one lump sum in April each year.”

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 As the financing of Wyvern CT is achieved by “recycling” grant from ECC there is no impact on this Council's core budget. Indications are that the FFF will yield around £77,000 of the County's overall £1.1M budget. On the assumption that Members endorse the proposal to earmark 66% for Wyvern CT the remaining 34% (£26,180) would be dedicated to the Taxi Voucher Scheme.

4.2 The Taxi Voucher Scheme is well patronised and, as reported earlier this year, is meeting high level aims and objectives within the existing budget. The Head of Service is therefore proposing that the overall budget allocation for 2006/7 remains at £106,000 as illustrated below:-

	<u>2005/6</u>	<u>2006/7</u>
Total Grant from Essex CC	£63,244	£77,000 (est)
Community Transport element	£42,000	£50,820
Taxi Voucher element ECC Funded	£21,244	£26,180
Taxi Voucher element RDC Funded	£84,756	£79,820
Total allocated to Taxi Vouchers	£106,000	£106,000

The Council's contribution to taxi vouchers would then be £79,820 rather than £84,756 as at present.

5 CONCLUSION

5.1 The five-year Partnership approach permits all parties involved in the agreement to plan ahead with a degree of financial surety. The proposals outlined above provide Wyvern CT with slightly more funding than that originally planned for 2006/7. The Trustees advise that this would mean service enhancement which might include the purchase of a second, and

more suitable, vehicle than the 16-seater bus provided by Essex County Council when the scheme was set up.

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.

Steve Clarkson

Head of Revenue & Housing Management

Background Papers:-

None

For further information please contact Steve Clarkson on:-

Tel:- 01702 318005

E-Mail:- steve.Clarkson@rochford.gov.uk