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**TITLE: Community Transport Grant Scheme**

Committee: Commercial Services

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017

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[R173]

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1.0 ISSUE

1.1 To award the £15,000 Community Transport Grant to local community transport providers.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that Members award £13,500 to Ely and Soham Association of Community Transport (ESACT) and £1,500 to the East Cambridgeshire Social Car Scheme.

3.0 BACKGROUND/OPTIONS

3.1 The District Council has allocated £15,000 from this year's budget to support local Community Transport Schemes in recognition of the important role they play in providing much needed transport for residents, particularly those living in more rural areas, where scheduled buses do not operate or only provide a limited service.

3.2 To make organisations aware of the grant scheme, local community transport providers were contacted directly and provided with information about the grant. The scheme was also promoted via the local press and the ECDC website.

4.0 ARGUMENTS/CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Four application forms were received and appraised. One of the applications was for funding to enable an expansion of services, two to provide funding to improve information/booking of transport services and one to support continuation of services. Points were awarded for the scope of the services provided, additionality that would be delivered as a result of funding and plans to ensure the sustainability of the service moving forward. An element of match funding was a qualifying condition for receiving the grant to ensure maximum impact from the £15,000.

4.2 The application from ESACT to support the expansion of dial-a-ride in East Cambridgeshire, and the application from Voluntary and Community Action East Cambridgeshire to computerise the East Cambridgeshire Social Car Scheme booking system to enable an increase in activity levels, both scored

the highest marks. Therefore, it is recommended that the funding should be split between the two projects. Full details of the scoring breakdown can be found at Appendix 1.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1 £15,000 is allocated in the Council budget for the Community Transport Grant.

5.2 Equality Impact Assessment (INRA) not required.

6.0 APPENDICES

6.1 Appendix 1: ECDC Community Transport Grant Scheme Score Sheet.

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<u>Background Documents</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Officer</u>
Application forms submitted East Cambridgeshire Community Transport Grant Scheme 2016/17 - Guidance Notes	Room 12, The Grange, Ely	Sally Bonnett Infrastructure and Strategy Manager (01353) 616451 sally.bonnett@eastcambs.gov.uk