
TITLE: COMMUNITY TRANSPORT GRANTS

Committee: Community Services

Date: 21 November 2017

Author: Director, Commercial

[S175]

1.0 ISSUE

- 1.1 To consider proposals relating to previously allocated grants for Community Transport.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 Members are requested to:

- i) Withdraw the grant offered to ESACT as set out in 4.1
- ii) Roll forward unspent grant funds from 2016/17 and 2017/18 for allocation in 2018/19 as set out in 4.2

3.0 BACKGROUND/OPTIONS

- 3.1 In February 2016 Council made provision in the 2016/17 budget of £15,000 to be made available for community transport. Subsequent to this Officers invited applications for funding for community transport.
- 3.2 At its meeting on 17 January 2017 Commercial Services (Agenda Item 7) it was resolved that £13,500 be awarded to Ely & Soham Association of Community Transport (ESACT), subject to a satisfactory resolution of the ongoing investigation; and that £1,500 be awarded to the East Cambridgeshire Social Car Scheme.
- 3.3 The grant of £1,500 has been paid to the East Cambridgeshire Social Car Scheme.
- 3.4 The Council has not paid the grant to ESACT; the investigation of ESACT is ongoing and is not likely to be resolved in the very short term.
- 3.5 In February 2017 Council made provision in the 2017/18 budget of £15,000 to be made available for community transport. Officer have not yet invited application to bid for the grant. The main reasons for not inviting applications related to both the ongoing investigation of ESACT and the transport review being carried out by Cambridgeshire County Council.

- 3.6 Subject to Council approval in February 2018 provision will be made for £15,000 for community transport. If approved in February there could be a potential £43,500 available for community transport.
- 3.7 The community transport grant scheme is not limited to existing community transport providers. The fund is also open to charities, social enterprises and community groups, including parish councils. To access the grant, an organisation must demonstrate that they have an interest in transport and accessibility, and are a formally constituted group.
- 3.8 Previous applicants of the grant include ESACT, CCC- Total Transport Project, The Voluntary Network- Community Transport in Newmarket and Voluntary and Community Action East Cambridgeshire- East Cambs Social Car Scheme.

4.0 ARGUMENTS/CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 It is unlikely that the ESACT investigation will conclude in the short term. The Council has been holding the £13,500 allocation since January 2017. Without a known outcome date it is not recommended that the Council continue to hold this grant allocation and as such it should be withdrawn and the funds be made available for community transport as outlined in 4.2 below.
- 4.2 It is recommended that the Council 'rollover' 2016/17 and 2017/18 balances to 2018/19. This would allow Officers to invite applications with a potential bidding pot of £43,500 (if 2018/19 provision is agreed by Council in February 2018) or £28,500 if only 2016/17 and 2017/18 funds are available.
- 4.3 This would enable meaningful applications to come forward and Officers would seek to maximise the available funds to ensure the fund is utilised in the most efficient and effective manner.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report
- 5.2 Equality Impact Assessment (INRA) not required

6.0 APPENDICES

- 6.1 None

Background Documents

Community Transport Grant
Scheme- Agenda Item 7,
Commercial Services, 17
January 2017

Location

The Grange,
Ely

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