

21 May 2015

Agenda Item: 8

## **REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, TRANSPORT, PROPERTY & ENVIRONMENT**

### **DFT TOTAL TRANSPORT PILOT FUND & COMMUNITY MINIBUS FUND**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform Committee of the County Council's successful bid for Total Transport Pilot Funding.
2. To seek approval for the appointment of consultants to provide support for delivering the pilot project.
3. To advise Committee of the successful outcome of Community Transport Minibus Fund bids.

#### **Information and Advice**

##### **Total Transport Fund**

4. In January this year the DfT invited bids from County Councils for the £7.6m Total Transport Pilot Fund. The funding was available to Local Authorities who provide public road passenger transport services in rural and rural-outer urban areas.
5. The Government recognises that passenger transport is fundamental to the sustainability and independence of communities, because it provides people with access to public services, healthcare, employment, education and training. Inadequate transport can, therefore, be a barrier to well-being and prosperity.
6. Around £2 billion of public funding for transport services is currently spent annually by various agencies e.g. Local Authorities, National Health Service, and Schools & Colleges etc. However, Government feel that this funding is not well co-ordinated or integrated at a local level resulting in duplication and inefficiencies. In July 2014 the Transport Select Committee published a report on "Passenger Transport in Isolated Communities" and expressed a belief that a total transport model could benefit isolated communities. However, there is no clear evidence of the benefits and costs because no trials had been carried out. It was, therefore, recommended that total transport schemes be piloted in a range of urban and rural areas.
7. Local Transport is currently provided by a broad range of services run by many different organisations including Local Authorities, Health, Colleges etc. Providing these services in an integrated way may ensure that the overall needs of passengers

are met and the services provided are efficient and effective. The fund will allow the various partners, led by the County Council and the City Council, to undertake feasibility studies and pilots in our area, and other groundwork to identify what scope there is for integration between the various agencies.

8. The expected outcomes from this pilot are detailed in the attached bid (**Appendix 1**) and summarised below:
9. Enhanced travel opportunities for older people, younger people, low income residents, disabled persons, college and school students, hospital patients and unemployed people – in particular those from isolated rural areas who are unable to use traditional public transport services
10. Improvements to the delivery of existing or new local bus services, especially in isolated rural areas
11. More efficient use of transport resources within Nottinghamshire County Council / Nottingham City / other partners e.g. Health
12. Efficiency savings to all partners as own transport services utilised more efficiently / own clients transported most appropriately
13. The County Council and City Council submitted a bid for £300k which was successful. The bid covers the rural areas of Newark & Sherwood, Rushcliffe and Bassetlaw. A copy of the bid is attached: **Appendix 1**. The main proposal is to develop a travel solutions hub – see **Appendix 2**, in order to align passenger transport resources across the organisation and beyond.
14. The project will commence immediately and will be linked to the wider Transport Transformation programme – see **Appendix 3** for details. A project of this kind will require additional support and tenders have been invited from consultants who have significant experience in this area. We do not have the resource capacity to undertake the majority of this work internally. As such the bid to the DfT was made to secure the additional resources needed.

### **Community Minibus Fund**

15. On 26 March 2015 the DfT announced the outcome of the £25m community minibus fund which will provide 9 to 16 seat passenger vehicles specifically tailored to meet local community transport needs. More than 300 charities and community groups across England submitted successful bids, two of which were in Nottinghamshire, Ravenshead Community Transport and Bassetlaw Action Centre. The new minibuses will improve the everyday lives of people in the Bassetlaw and Gedling areas by providing vital links to health, retail and social events. This is particularly important for those people in our communities who are unable to use traditional public transport services.
16. The provision of these two vehicles supports the County Council Mobility Strategy and its aspirations for a stronger 3rd Sector.
17. Further details of both funding streams are available at [www.dft.gov.uk](http://www.dft.gov.uk)

## **Proposals**

18. That work on the project commences immediately and that the additional consultancy support be put in place by June 2015. The funding is to cover the cost of the pilot to June 2017.
19. That meetings are held with partners to finalise the programme of work and timescales for the pilot. Regular update reports on progress will be brought to the Committee.

## **Other Options Considered**

20. To do nothing will not realise the potential benefits for efficiencies and improvements in local transport provision.

## **Environment & Sustainability**

21. Local passenger transport is key to congestion management, reduction in car use and improving air quality.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

22. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **Financial Implications**

23. The cost of the pilot is funded from the bid.

## **Implications for Service Users**

24. Improvements in local transport services will improve the availability of transport for commuting and enable people, especially in isolated rural areas to access key services.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Committee:

- 1) Note the successful bid for DfT Total Transport Funding (£300k) and the contents of the pilot project.
- 2) Approve the appointment of consultancy to support delivery of the pilot project.
- 3) Note the successful outcome of the DfT Community Transport Minibus Fund bids.

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**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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### **Constitutional Comments (LM 28/04/2015)**

25. The Transport and Highways Committee has delegated authority within the Constitution to approve the recommendations in the report.

### **Financial Comments (TR 29/04/2015)**

26. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 23 of the report.

### **Background Papers**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

House of Commons Transport Committee "Passenger Transport in Isolated Communities":	14 July 2014
DfT Letter – Total Transport Fund (TTF) and application form:	14 January 2015
DfT – TTF Awards Letter:	27 March 2015
DfT Minibus Fund Awards:	9 April 2015
County Council Mobility Strategy ( <a href="http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/travelling/travel/communitytransport/mobility-strategy-for-nottinghamshire/">http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/travelling/travel/communitytransport/mobility-strategy-for-nottinghamshire/</a> )	April 2011

### **Electoral Divisions and Members Affected**

All

