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**TITLE: EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMUNITY TRANSPORT GRANT SCHEME**

Committee: Community Services Committee

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019

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[T180]

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1.0 ISSUE

1.1 To consider the launch of the Community Transport Grant Scheme.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 Members are requested to:

- (i) Note the update on the Cambridgeshire County Council investigation into Fenland Association for Community Transport (FACT), Huntingdonshire Association for Community Transport (HACT) and Ely and Soham Association for Community Transport (ESACT).
- (ii) Instruct the Infrastructure and Strategy Manager to invite applications for the Community Transport Scheme, and
- (iii) Agree the timetable for applications to run from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019 to 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019.

3.0 BACKGROUND/OPTIONS

3.1 The District Council currently allocates £15,000 a year in its 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 In 2016/17 Members awarded £13,500 to Ely and Soham Association for Community Transport (ESACT) and £1,500 to the East Cambridgeshire Social Car Scheme. The grant to ESACT was initially withheld pending completion of an investigation into the funding and operation of it and its sister organisations Fenland Association for Community Transport (FACT) and Huntingdonshire Association for Community Transport (HACT), instigated by Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC).

3.3 The grant offer was withdrawn by this Committee in November 2017 as the length of the investigation meant that the monies would not be spend by the

31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 deadline. The Grant Scheme process was put on hold in 2017/18 due to the ongoing investigation and the monies carried forward to the next financial year.

- 3.4 The CCC investigation set out a number of actions for the Community Transport providers to complete and the majority of these have been done. CCC are now satisfied that, following the implementation of the outstanding actions, FH&E (the new single board overseeing FACT, HACT and ESACT), would be considered a fit and proper organisation to contract with the Council.
- 3.5 In light of the recommendations made by the CCC investigation, a draft funding agreement for the Council's grant scheme has been created. This sets out the outcomes and targets to be achieved and how the grant will be monitored. It would be good practice for the Council to adopt such a document. An example is provided at Appendix 1.

#### 4.0 ARGUMENTS/CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 The grant available for Community Transport is currently £43,500 (£13,500 from 2016/17, £15,000 from 2017/18 and £15,000 from 2018/19).
- 4.2 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. Applicants must be able to demonstrate that their organisation has an interest in transport and accessibility and is a formally constituted group.
- 4.3 The Council does not make match funding a requirement. However, the grant should not expect to be the sole source of funding and applications must show what other sources of funding have been sought and that the project is deliverable.
- 4.4 To make organisations aware of the grant scheme, local community transport providers will be contacted directly and provided with information about the grant. The scheme will also be promoted via the local press and the ECDC website.
- 4.5 Evaluated application forms will be brought back to this Committee in May 2019 for Members to approve any allocations of funds.

#### 5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 This will be met from existing resources as identified in paragraph 4.1.
- 5.2 Equality Impact Assessment (INRA) not required.

#### 6.0 APPENDICES

- 6.1 Appendix 1 - Community Transport Scheme Grant Funding Agreement.

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**Background Documents**

- Minutes of Community Services Committee meeting held on 17th January 2017
- Minutes of Community Services Committee meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2017

**Location**

Room 12, The Grange,  
Ely

**Contact Officer**

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