

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Environment and Transport
Date:	12 March 2019
Title:	Grant Stream for Public Bus Operators
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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1. The decision:

- 1.1. That the Executive Member for Environment and Transport gives authority for £165,000 of existing, one-off resource utilising Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG) funding for 2018/19 be made available as a grant stream for small and medium sized independent bus operators in Hampshire to apply for funding to introduce contactless payment enabled ticket machines.
- 1.2. That the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment be given the delegated authority to finalise the arrangements for the implementation of the grant stream funding in consultation with the Executive Member for Environment and Transport, as set out in the report, and to subsequently award the grants in accordance with these arrangements.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1 In 2017, Hampshire County Council made significant investment to improve passenger facilities on buses in Hampshire including the introduction of many contactless ticket machines.
- 2.2 This first phase allowed the major operators to introduce contactless payment to make bus travel easier and improve air quality by reducing delays at bus stops.
- 2.3 As a result of this investment, up to 35% of journeys are now made using contactless or mobile tickets avoiding the need for cash and the delays that causes.
- 2.4 The purpose of this report is to seek authority to enter into a second phase of investment, via a grant steam. This second phase would extend contactless payment to the remaining medium size and smaller operators, some of which have extensive networks in the Eastleigh, Test Valley and Winchester areas, bringing the benefits of modern methods of paying for travel to further Hampshire residents.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. No action. Not establishing a second phase grant stream and waiting for operators to upgrade to contactless technology independently. This would result in a delay in realising the benefits of contactless payment for many operators and passengers travelling in Hampshire.
- 3.2. Offering 100% grant funding for operators to purchase contactless ticket machines. This would increase the cost of this investment to Hampshire County Council and reduce the number of operators and in turn, passengers, who would benefit.

4. Conflicts of interest:

- 4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker:
- 4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted:

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: none.

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by:

Date:

12 March 2019

**Executive Member for Environment and Transport
Councillor Rob Humby**