

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment
Date:	19 November 2020
Title:	Passenger Transport Contracts and Concessionary Fares Payments
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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1. The decision:

- 1.1 That authority is given to extend the current policy of 100% contract and concessionary fares payments to local bus and community transport operators until 31 March 2021, and 80% contract and concessionary travel payments to Taxishare operators until 31 March 2021, as detailed in the supporting report, to be met from existing budgets and administered through normal procedures and delegated authority, to provide continuity for service users in Hampshire.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1. The proposals to continue making ongoing payments to local bus, community transport and taxishare operators will enable the County Council to continue to provide key transport services to members of the public many of whom are older and disabled members of the community. As and when the need for social distancing eases, it is anticipated that demand will continue to grow and therefore these services will be paramount to Hampshire's recovery. This is particularly important in the case of the local bus services used by school and college students to access their place of education.
- 2.2. The decision will contribute to Hampshire's economic growth as recovery progresses, enabling passengers to access their place of employment in addition to health, retail, social, educational and leisure facilities.
- 2.3. The decision will contribute towards Hampshire's strategic aim of enabling its residents to live safe, healthy and independent lives

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. To offer reduced contract and Concessionary Travel scheme payments to operators based on their activity rather than at pre COVID-19 levels.

Depending on the area, this would undermine the local bus network and the operation of community transport and taxishare services. This would result in either no service or a reduced service being provided and would be harmful to the recovery of passenger transport services in Hampshire and the well-being of those people who rely on these services. This action would also be contrary to the advice of the Department for Transport (DfT) issued on 14 September 2020 which confirmed that the budget for the government support package for local bus operators, Covid-19 Bus Services Support Grant (CBSSG), has been calculated on the basis that contract and concessionary fares funding will continue at previous levels. A reduction in payment to local bus operators would undermine this vital support

3.2. To withdraw County Council support from local bus, community transport and taxishare services. This would have a negative impact on Hampshire's economic recovery leaving passengers across Hampshire unable to access employment, health, retail, social, educational and leisure facilities. This would also be in direct contradiction to the County Council's long-term decarbonisation objectives.

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:

19 November 2020

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