

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Highways Operations
Date:	27 January 2022
Title:	Concessionary Fares and Community Transport Contract Payments
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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1. The decision:

- 1.1. That the Executive Member for Highway Operations gives authority to make concessionary fares reimbursement payments to local bus and community transport operators from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 based on a phased approach for the transition back down to actual concessionary patronage levels, in line with the latest Department for Transport (DfT) guidance (issued October 2021), to be met from existing budgets.
- 1.2. That the Executive Member for Highways Operations gives authority to extend the current arrangements of making 100% Community Transport contract payments to operators, to cover the period from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023, to be met from existing budgets.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1. To transition the local bus sector to normal operations in a way that minimises the impact of the short-term revenue reductions on the concessionary fares reimbursement for local bus services.
- 2.2. To allow Community Transport services to recover fully in view of the impact of COVID-19 and for an analysis of demand to be carried out and applied to future service provision.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. Reverting to reimbursing transport operators for the use of concessionary bus passes based on the actual number of concessionary pass holders travelling from April 2022. This is not a preferred option as projected passenger

recovery levels at this time would leave operators with a shortfall in their operational budgets and lead to an immediate reduction in service levels.

- 3.2. Continue reimbursing on the existing basis. This is not recommended by the DfT and therefore the option was discounted.
- 3.3. Reducing community transport contract payments to reflect the short-term reduction in demand for the services. This option would see a contraction of the community transport sector in Hampshire resulting in organisations ceasing to be able to deliver as many journey opportunities, reducing the ability for the sector to recover in the longer term. This approach would not meet the County Council's strategic aims with regards to both climate change and within the recent Bus Service Improvement Plan.

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:

27 January 2022

**Executive Member for Highways Operations
Councillor Russell Oppenheimer**