

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CABINET MEMBER MEETING – HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES

20 August 2013

Report of the Director of Public Health

Funding for aCTive Travel Project

1. Purpose of the Report

To seek approval from the Cabinet to provide health contribution funding to support the continuation of the aCTive Travel project.

2. Information and Analysis

The objective of the project is to provide eligible residents with affordable, bespoke, door-to-door transport to health, well-being and preventative services across Derbyshire. The initiative embraces, for example, trips to visit friends and relatives, the dentist, opticians, pharmacists, specialist and preventative clinics such as the Falls Clinics.

Eligible passengers are Derbyshire residents who have difficulty in travelling on local bus services because of their age or personal disability, which may be temporary or permanent, and residents who are unable to travel because public transport is not available.

The transport service has been branded '*aCTive travel*' and operationally takes the form of either a Community Car Scheme or a Dial-a-Ride service; the difference being the first service utilises a volunteer driver using their own car, the latter utilises a paid driver with an accessible Community Transport vehicle.

Approximately 75% of aCTive travel journeys relate to health service use including trips to GP surgeries, hospitals, dentist, opticians, pharmacists and a wide range of specialist and community services. However, the County Council also identified at the outset that use of the monies should also have a social value for frail and vulnerable people and therefore a minority of journeys relate to non-healthcare purposes. A survey undertaken by the County Council in 2010 identified people who would otherwise have no access to local services and facilities without the provision of Community Transport services.

The aCTive travel service operates countywide ensuring frail and vulnerable people have a caring service to get them to their required destination. Community Transport schemes were identified as the service provider for

aCTive travel as they have eight operating bases across the County and are well placed to meet the diversity of individual needs. They have over 25 years of experience, the flexibility to meet changes in demand and a good understanding of the needs of the communities they serve. They also offer wheelchair accessible vehicles and a personal and supportive service, for example, the driver will normally wait with the patient where necessary and provide additional assistance if required.

Environmental Services are looking to undertake an assessment of people's needs for community and voluntary transport to identify gaps in existing provision (including Active Travel). The information gathered will be used to help inform decisions about the development of the sector and its role in providing an efficient and responsive service. The assessment will require participation and input of both the CCGs and the public health team.

3. Financial Considerations

Cabinet approved £80,000 funding per annum for 5 years for the aCTive travel initiative starting in April 2010, to be matched by £80,000 a year from the PCT. However, the health contribution was then funded from PCT underspends each year and no separate budget was ever allocated recurrently to aCTive travel by the PCT. As a result of this, after the transition of Public Health to DCC and the demise of the PCT, there is no clearly identifiable matched health budget for the initiative for 2013/14 and 2014/15.

The funding of £160,000 per year originally provided £20,000 for each of eight Community Transport schemes in Derbyshire, but two have recently merged and that scheme receives £40,000. The seven Community Transport organisations are Ashbourne, Bakewell & Eyam, Clowne, CT4TC (merger of Chesterfield and Amber Valley), Erewash, Glossop and Swadlincote.

Community Transport services in Derbyshire also receive other funding from Adult Care and the CCGs for specific services, but that is separate to this initiative.

CCGs have identified monies to fund a continuing "health" contribution of £50,000 to the aCTive travel initiative at least for 2013/14.

As £80k is required a £30k contribution from the public health budget is required to support the £50k total contribution from the 4 CCGs divided as below;

| | | |
|-------|----------------|----------------|
| NDCCG | 40.05% | £20,025.00 |
| SDCCG | 29.87% | £14,935.00 |
| HCCG | 16.22% | £8,110.00 |
| ECCG | 13.86% | £6,930.00 |
| | <u>100.00%</u> | <u>£50,000</u> |

4. Legal Considerations

The proposed funding set out in this report is additional funding to existing grant arrangements. As a recipient of a grant, the Community Transport organisations are not contractually obliged to deliver any services although the Council may be able to claw back grant which has not been spent or is misapplied. However, confidence can be drawn from the fact that the aCTive travel initiative, and the funding, has been in place since 2010.

It is a continuing requirement that each Scheme provides regular reports throughout the year on the use of the funding in addition to the annual report and accounts.

5. Equality and Diversity Considerations

Community Transport services are available to anyone who is unable to use public transport or who does not have access to public transport. The schemes are particularly valuable in providing access to essential services for people with mobility difficulties and many of the vehicles are accessible by wheelchair users. In further developing Community Transport services, an important aim is to encourage use of the services by a broader cross-section of the community. The aCTive travel project is a targeted component of the generic community transport services and is specifically designed to improve access to a wide range of healthcare facilities.

6. Environmental, Health and Transport Considerations

Community Transport schemes provide an alternative means of accessing essential services for people who do not have the use of a car or who cannot use public transport. The aCTive travel project is a scheme specifically designed to improve access to a wide range of healthcare facilities including GP's surgeries, hospital appointments, exercise classes and other health-related activities.

7. Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

8. Key Decision

No

9. Call-in

Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No

10. Background Papers

Report of the Strategic Director – Environmental Services

Proposed grant funding for community transport for 2013/14 (Highways and Transport)
Derbyshire County Council, Cabinet, 30th July 2013
Report of the Director of Public Health
Health & Communities
Public Health commissioned services in 2013-15

11. OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Cabinet Member approves the Public Health contribution of £30,000 for the aCTive Travel project for 2013-14.

Elaine Michel
Director of Public Health