

Agenda Item No. 7 (i)

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET MEETING

26 May 2015

Report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

TOTAL TRANSPORT PILOT FUND – GRANT TO IMPLEMENT A CROSS-SECTOR APPROACH TO THE DELIVERY OF SUPPORTED PASSENGER TRANSPORT SERVICES (HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE)

(1) **Purpose of Report** To seek Cabinet approval for the acceptance of a Government grant from the Department for Transport (DfT) for the Total Transport Pilot Fund to be used to investigate the scope for integrating passenger transport services commissioned and provided by different agencies and operators.

(2) **Information and Analysis** Public passenger transport provides people with access to public services, healthcare, employment, education and training, and shopping. Local public sector organisations, including local authorities and clinical commissioning groups, play a vital role in providing and supporting transport services. However, funding and provision is generally not well integrated at a local level, resulting in some level of duplication.

The Transport Select Committee's 2014 report '*Passenger Transport in isolated Communities*', suggested that a 'total transport' model could benefit isolated rural communities. This approach involves pooling transport resources to deliver a range of services with greater co-ordination and efficiency to better meet the needs of passengers.

However, the report concluded that there was no clear evidence of the benefits and costs of the model because no trials had been carried out. The Committee therefore recommended that the DfT work with local government to co-ordinate total transport pilot schemes in rural communities.

In response, the DfT established a £4m Total Transport Pilot Fund and invited bids from local authorities in England. Bids were restricted to rural areas and areas encompassing the rural-outer urban boundary.

The Council bid sought funding for £164,900 for a two year pilot study entitled 'Total Transport Derbyshire'. The Council proposes to undertake studies in the

districts of Bolsover and Derbyshire Dales. Of the four eligible areas in Derbyshire, these two were chosen as they face significant, but contrasting, transport challenges. As such, they appeared to offer the best opportunities for learning from the experience of the pilot studies. The initial phase of the project will be aimed at understanding all passenger transport movements and identifying opportunities for better integration. The second phase of the project focuses on delivering the integration identified in Phase 1 and identifying longer term opportunities and key lessons that could be applied to other areas of the County.

A grant offer of £164,900 was made by the DfT to the County Council on 27 March 2015 which will, subject to acceptance, be paid as a single payment. It should be noted that:

- The grant allocation will need to be spent and the pilot project delivered by the end of March 2017.
- Monitoring of progress of expenditure will take place at regular intervals.
- Any unspent funds at the end of March 2017 cannot be carried into 2017-18 without prior approval from the DfT.

Cabinet is therefore requested to approve the acceptance of this grant. An ambitious project of this scale requires high level Council and stakeholder support, but also considerable resource on a day-to-day level to manage partners, data, monitoring and reviews. The project will require a full time Project Officer who will have responsibility for delivering the project with support from officers, other stakeholders and any specialist external support that may be needed e.g. accessibility mapping.

Progress on delivering the pilot studies will be monitored on a regular basis and further reports will be submitted to the Cabinet Member – Highways, Transport and Infrastructure.

(3) **Financial Considerations** As contained within the report.

(4) **Human Resources Considerations** It is proposed to recruit a full time Project Officer on a two year fixed term contract. The post will be subject to job evaluation as it is a new post within the department and the grading is to be confirmed. Senior Project officers within the department in similar roles are grade 12 posts. The employment costs have been included in the grant award.

(5) **Environmental, Health, Equality and Diversity, and Transport Considerations** Improved integration of service provision, particularly in rural areas, will address a wide range of Council objectives relating to healthy travel, accessibility and environmental sustainability.

Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: legal, prevention of crime and disorder, and property considerations.

(6) **Key Decision** No.

(7) **Call-In** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(8) **Background Papers** Held on file within the Economy, Transport and Environment Department. Officer contact details – Deborah Oddy, extension 36743.

(9) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS** That Cabinet:

9.1 Accepts the Department for Transport Total Transport Pilot Fund grant of £164,900 for the project 'Total Transport Derbyshire'.

9.2 Notes that progress reports on the Project will be submitted to the Cabinet Member – Highways, Transport and Infrastructure on a regular basis.

Mike Ashworth
Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment