

12 November 2014		ITEM: 6
Planning, Transport & Regeneration Overview & Scrutiny Committee		
Community Transport Review		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Key	
Report of: Councillor Tom Kelly, Chair of the Community Transport Review Panel		
Accountable Head of Service: Ann Osola, Head of Service for Transportation		
Accountable Director: David Bull, Director of Planning & Transportation		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

The Planning, Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed on 30 July 2014 to look into TransVol funding and the use of this Grant from Thurrock Council. It looks at the implications of financially supporting community transport in Thurrock and issues around efficiency and value for money.

1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 To note the Community Transport Review Panel report attached at appendix 1.**
- 1.2 To agree the recommendations contained within the report at appendix 1, following which a report will be referred to Cabinet.**

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1** The Planning, Transport and Regeneration Overview & Scrutiny Committee on Wednesday 30 July 2014 agreed to establish a Task & Finish Group to explore the implications of various levels of financial funding to Trans Vol to provide community transport in Thurrock.
- 2.2** The Community Transport review panel undertook an investigation into community transport provided by TransVo and explored as to whether the same service could be provided to residents within budgetary constraints.

- 2.3 At the meeting of the Community Transport Review Panel on 29 October 2014 the panel were particularly interested in seeking as to whether there was an option to carry on providing funding to the charity.
- 2.4 The panel engaged with officers across the Council and TransVol to evaluate the current funding provided and whether this was value for money to Thurrock Council.
- 2.5 The full background, methods and activities of the Community Transport Review Panel are attached at appendix 1.
- 2.6 In the special Council meeting on Monday 27 October 2014 of the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Overview & Scrutiny-Voluntary Sector groups a proposal was offered. The Voluntary Sector suggested that they would be willing to accept a £10k reduction of the budget from 2014/2015 to £87,400 for 2015/2016.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1 All issues and options are considered within the report and attached at appendix 1.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 The Community Transport Review Panel was established by the Planning, Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 30 July 2014. The panel has a duty to report back to Planning, Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee with its findings.

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

- 5.1 A survey is being undertaken by Trans Vol with its members relating to future funding and is included within appendix 1.

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

- 6.1 Support for community transport meets the Council's priority to promote health and well-being and will enable residents to maintain an independent lifestyle. Making journeys to access services such as shopping, and healthcare facilities such as doctors, dentists and optician's reduces the needs to provide services to people at home.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Mike Jones**
Management Accountant

The Council has identified savings within its Medium Term financial strategy in relation to the reduction of Trans Vol grant. Deviation from this will need to be considered as part of the Council's budget setting strategy to identify alternative cost reductions.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Vivien Williams**
Planning & Regeneration Solicitor

Legal Implications are contained within the report.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Teresa Evans**
Equalities and Cohesion Officer

The removal of funding to Trans Vol will potentially have a negative impact on people from different protected characteristics (Equality Act 2010) notably disabled people, older people and gender. It will be important to explore actions which will mitigate this impact.

7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder)

None

8. Background papers used in preparing the report (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

- None

9. Appendices to the report

- Appendix 1: DRAFT Community Transport Review Report (October 2014)

Report Author:

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