

Central
Bedfordshire
Council
Priory House
Monks Walk
Chicksands,
Shefford SG17 5TQ



TO EACH MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE

11 October 2016

Dear Councillor

EXECUTIVE - Tuesday 11 October 2016

Further to the Agenda and papers for the above meeting, previously circulated, please find attached the following additional report(s) which the Chairman has agreed to take as an urgent item of business:-

8. Passenger Transport Strategy

Please see below the response to the recommendation from the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Response:

Continuation of the existing grants to community transport providers on an as is basis, even for a year, could mean the Authority is in breach of procurement legislation as the *de minimis* value of spend (over which a tender is required to comply with the law) will have been exceeded in relation to two of the current providers.

Furthermore there is no benefit in delaying the introduction of the tender process until April 2018: discussions have been had with the current providers and will continue to be had with them and other interested parties, to provide a solution, and these discussions will not take a further 18 months.

By adopting a tender process the operators can have some certainty in relation to future funding which in turn will allow them to plan their operations going forward.

As with all areas of funding we must be transparent when spending public monies, and be clear what we are spending money on and what we get in return for that spend. It should also be noted that both the public consultation and the telephone consultation supported this change.

Should you have any queries regarding the above please contact Sandra Hobbs, Committee Services Officer on Tel: 0300 300 5257.

Yours sincerely

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