

 <b>Executive – January 2012</b>		<b>Agenda Item No.</b>  <b>7</b>
<b>Title</b>	Discretionary Travel scheme	
<b>For further information about this report please contact</b>	Councillor Bill Gifford or Councillor John Barrott	
<b>Wards of the District directly affected</b>	All	
<b>Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006</b>	No	
<b>Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number</b>	Overview and Scrutiny 5 September 2011	
<b>Background Papers</b>	Working papers of the Task and Finish Group	

<b>Contrary to the policy framework:</b>	No
<b>Contrary to the budgetary framework:</b>	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	Yes
<b>Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)</b>	Yes

<b>Officer/Councillor Approval</b>		
With regard to officer approval all reports <i>must</i> be approved by the report authors relevant Deputy Chief Executive, Head of Service, Finance, Monitoring Officer and the relevant Portfolio Holder(s).		
<b>Officer Approval</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive		Bill Hunt
Head of Service		Susie Drummond
CMT		
Section 151 Officer		
Monitoring officer		
Finance	22/11/2011	Jenny Clayton
Portfolio Holder(s)		Moirra-Ann Grainger
<b>Consultation Undertaken</b>		
This is outlined in the Task and Finish Groups Report.		
<b>Final Decision?</b>		Yes
<b>Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)</b>		

## 1. **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The report sets out the findings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees Task and Finish Groups investigation to establish whether it was possible to introduce a single community transport scheme for both the elderly and residents with mobility problems where normal public transport was unsuitable to meet their changing travelling needs.

## 2. **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 The Executive agree the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee following their meeting on 5 September 2011 as set out below:

- (1) that recommendation 1 of the Task & Finish Group report, as set out at appendix 1, for "That the Executive of Warwick District Council approves the cost of £35,000 to £50,000 to provide another bus route operated by Flexibus that accesses those residents that the current routes do not reach. The specification for the additional route will need to be explored following approval." should not be accepted because of the service reductions made by Warwickshire County Council; and
- (2) recommendations 2 and 3 of the Task and Finish Group report, as set out below and at Appendix 1, be agreed.

Recommendation 2 - that officers undertake discussions with Age UK to ascertain if WDC can assist in the recruitment of volunteer drivers so that the Leamington bus can be fully utilised, therefore, enabling groups or organizations access to community transport.

Recommendation 3 - that a joint promotion activity is undertaken to promote all the community transport schemes available. This should include the community places where the questionnaire was issued as there was comprehensive response from the target audience in these places.

## 3. **REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 The Discretionary Travel Task & Finish Group was established in March 2010. The scope of their review is set out as an appendix to the Groups report.
- 3.2 The Group produced a final report, attached as appendix 1, but Warwickshire County announced significant changes to the delivery of the Flexibus service which impacted on their recommendations in the final report. For this reason the final report, although agreed by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee was not considered by the Executive.
- 3.3 The Task & Finish Group, excluding Councillor Mellor who gave her apologies, met on the 8 August 2011 to review their position and findings. They believed that recommendations 2 and 3 of their final report should be progressed but believed that recommendation 1(below) is no longer viable.

"That the Executive of Warwick District Council approves the cost of £35,000 to £50,000 to provide another bus route operated by Flexibus that accesses those residents that the current routes do not reach. The specification for the additional route will need to be explored following approval."

- 3.4 The Overview & Scrutiny Committee considered the Final report of the Task & Finish Group in September and accepted its findings and endorsed their recommendations for consideration by the Executive.

#### **4. ALTERNATIVE OPTION CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 An alternative option available to the Executive is to agree the recommendations as set out in the original Task and Finish Groups report.
- 4.2 The Executive can decide not to agree the recommendations but put forward their own recommendations in place of those made by the Task and Finish Group and the Overview and scrutiny Committee.
- 4.3 The Executive can refer the report back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee asking for further information to be received.

#### **5. BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK**

- 5.1 The recommendations put forward by both the Task and Finish Group and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, within Appendix 1 would have financial implications for the Council. However, the Recommendations within 2.1 to this report should not have any budgetary implications for the Council.
- 5.2 Due to the length of time involved by the Task and Finish Group in finalising their report, the budget for Discretionary Travel has changed from that outlined in the report, with the budget for 2011/12 being £43,900.

#### **6. POLICY FRAMEWORK**

- 6.1 The work carried out by the Committee helps the Councils to improve in line with its priority to offer value for money to users of our services and to be community focused by putting the needs of our local communities to the fore.