

REPORT TO: CITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – 23 MARCH 2015

REPORT ON: PROPOSALS TO ESTABLISH A TRANSPORT PUBLIC SOCIAL PARTNERSHIP (PSP)

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF CITY DEVELOPMENT

REPORT NO: 117-2015

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report sets out proposals to establish a Transport Public Social Partnership (PSP) with the purpose of delivering transport services within Dundee.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee
- a agrees the Council's participation in a Transport PSP
 - b agrees that the Transport PSP will be given responsibility for the development and delivery of a revised Friendly Bus service from July 2015; and
 - c agrees that the Transport PSP will be expected to develop a range of community based transport initiatives and services between July 2015 and June 2017.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The City Development Department has a budget of £62k in its unregistered bus services budget. It is proposed that once the current agreement with Stagecoach expires, the budget is used to fund the delivery of a revised Friendly Bus service by the delivery arm of the Transport PSP.
- 3.2 The PSP model allows the partnership to potentially attract new funding sources, such as the Change Fund and other development budgets only available to the third sector.

4 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Community Transport sector in Dundee is currently under-developed and there is a desire among council officers and other partners to build capacity within the third sector so that it is in a better position to deliver community-based transport services to the people of Dundee.
- 4.2 In July 2011, the Scottish Government issued guidance on the development of Public Social Partnerships. The Public Social Partnership (PSP) model allows partners from the public sector and third sector to work together to strengthen links, build capacity and co-produce services. A Public Social Partnership offers an opportunity for the Council to work with third sector partners, service users, and other public sector agencies, for a time limited period to develop specific services. After a two year period of development, it is expected that a local authority wishing to commission the continuation of the service, would put a service contract out to tender, with the third sector partners being invited to participate in the procurement process.
- 4.3 In November 2012, the Council approved its Social Enterprise Development Strategy that seeks to strengthen the social economy in Dundee. Transport based projects have been regularly identified in discussions and reported as a prime target area for development and capacity building. Existing Community Transport operations in Scotland is well supported by the Community Transport Association.

- 4.4 The Friendly Bus service has operated in Dundee since 2002 and has been funded by Dundee City Council since April 2005. Since June 2005, the service has been operated by Stagecoach Strathtay.
- 4.5 Since November 2013, discussions with the third sector, and specifically with the Dundee Social Enterprise Network have resulted in a proposal that a PSP is created to deliver a successor service to the Friendly Bus service and also explore and develop new and improved transport services across Dundee.
- 4.6 The PSP will include Dundee City Council officer and elected member representatives (City Development and Social Work), NHS Tayside, TACTRAN, service users and third sector colleagues, including a consortium of local social enterprises who will deliver future service development. The two key delivery organisations that have been identified within the PSP are the Factory Skatepark and Mid-Lin.
- 4.7 The PSP will be responsible for the continued operation of the Friendly Bus service from 1 July 2015. It is proposed that in the first three months, the Friendly Bus service will continue to operate to its current timetable and route. The first months of operation will be used as an opportunity to review the service, determine the needs of users, and plan improvements to the service and investigate new opportunities.
- 4.8 The PSP will also look to make better utilisation of its vehicle and staffing resources, developing and delivering new transport initiatives during the two year period. The key element of this PSP is that these initiatives will be community based and developed in conjunction with users and their representatives.

5 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This Report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. The major issues identified are:
- a the development of a Transport PSP will contribute towards the Council's developing Social Enterprise Development Strategy and associated Action Plan; and
 - b the creation of a Transport PSP will help achieve high level SOA outcomes 4: Our people will experience fewer health inequalities and 10. Our communities will have high quality and accessible local services and facilities

6 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 The Chief Executive, the Director of Corporate Services and Head of Democratic and Legal Services have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.
- 6.2 The Dundee Social Enterprise Network, Ready for Business Consortium and the newly established Dundee Transport Forum have been consulted.

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None.

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NHG/JB/MS

12 March 2015

Dundee City Council