

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**HIGHWAYS AND NEIGHBOURHOODS
CABINET MEMBER**

**HUMBER AND WOLDS RURAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL:
VOLUNTARY CAR SERVICE**

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To approve a grant for Humber and Wolds Rural Community Council (HWRCC).
- 1.2 This will ensure that a voluntary car service continues to run in North Lincolnshire for people who have no transport of their own and who cannot use buses or trains.
- 1.3 Funding is available in the planned budget for 2013/14.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 HWRCC provides a voluntary car service (VCS) for elderly or disabled people who need to make essential journeys but can't use public transport and have no car of their own or anyone who can take them. It runs under the name of "Transport Solutions".
- 2.2 The service arranges for volunteers to provide journeys using their own cars. The user pays the driver's expenses for the trip, usually a sum between the bus fare and a taxi fare.
- 2.3 The service is based in Winterton and helps people living in the rural parts of North Lincolnshire. It provides journeys within the area and to outside destinations such as hospitals and is very highly valued by its users.
- 2.4 There were 7,651 trips in 2012 with 449 users and 60 volunteer drivers. 90% of trips are to the doctor, hospitals or other health related appointments.
- 2.5 The council has grant-aided this service for 17 years. The payment in 2012/13 was £13,066. The money goes not to the users or the volunteer drivers but covers the cost of a paid staff member. She acts as a broker between the clients who ring up to request transport and

the volunteers who provide it. The funding also covers telephone charges and a share of accommodation expenses.

2.6 All volunteers are cleared to “Enhanced CRB” level for work with vulnerable adults. The clearance is renewed every three years. HWCT also checks driving licences, MOT’s and insurance annually.

2.7 The council wishes to encourage volunteers to provide services for the community. The VCS has been doing this for many years and is an important element in the community transport mix in North Lincolnshire. There may be an opportunity to broaden the service and integrate it with Adults Services work. We are already helping the VCS to recruit volunteer drivers and we will investigate the scope for development.

2.8 If the grant is approved, we shall prepare a simple agreement with HWCT to set out the service they will provide in return for the money.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 Option 1: Provide grant aid to continue the VCS.

3.2 Option 2: Provide no grant in 2013/14 and subsequent years.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 If we provide grant aid, the service will continue. It helps people who would otherwise be unable to travel. It also supports thousands of hours of volunteer drivers’ time.

4.2 If we withdraw grant aid, the service is likely to cease. Experience shows that it is not possible to run the service without paid staff at the core.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

5.1 We propose to increase the grant in line with the retail price index. This gives £13,575, a rise of 3.9%

5.2 This money is available from the planned 2013/14 budget.

6. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6.1 The assessment highlights the benefits of the service to older people and people with disabilities who live in rural parts of North Lincolnshire. If it ends, they will be unable to make essential journeys.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

7.1 We have discussed the future of the VCS with HWRCC. They will be unable to provide the service without a grant from the council.

7.2 There is no declared conflict of interest.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 We recommend that the council provides a grant of £13,575 in 2013/14 to Humber and Wolds Rural Community Council to support the Voluntary Car Service.

DIRECTOR OF PLACES

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Request for grant from Humber & Wolds RCC (Transport Solutions) on file 13/1429.