



'Better Bus' Funding Award

SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report seeks approval to accept a 'Better by Bus' funding award from the Department for Transport (DfT) as an urgent matter to enable works orders to be placed ahead of the next available Cabinet meeting
- 1.2 In total our award is for £1.06m revenue and £1.116m capital to be spent over two years commencing 1 April 2012.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To approve acceptance of the Derby: Better by Bus funding award of £2.176m from the DfT £50m Better Bus Area Fund.
- 2.2 To approve capital scheme commencement and add to £541,000 to the 2012/13 capital programme and the balance of £575,000 to the 2013/14 capital programme.
- 2.3 To approve the carry forward of any remaining funding within the £1.06m revenue grant into the 2013/14 financial year and subsequent financial years as necessary.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To ensure that full advantage is taken of government grant funding which will result in significant improvement in Derby's bus services.
- 3.2 To ensure compliance with the Councils Contract and Financial Procedure Rules and to enable appropriate financial monitoring of the project.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 On the 21 February 2012 Cabinet approved a submission to the Department for Transport for capital and revenue funding from the £50m Better Bus Area Fund. The Minister for Transport, Norman Baker has recently confirmed that Derby has been successful in its full submission for £2.176m, one of only three local authorities in the East Midlands and 29 in the country.

- 4.2 The bid has been developed in partnership with our two main bus operators Arriva Midlands and Trent Barton. In total the operators have provided £6.111m match funding mostly for new buses and ticket machines. We have also identified further funding support of £3.65m, arising from existing committed activity which supports transport and public realm improvements.
- 4.3 The four strands to our bid are designed to tackle the barriers which our research and consultation has shown discourage commuting and business travel by bus in the city. These strands are:
1. **Improving the reliability and punctuality of bus services through**
 - **Targeted investment in traffic signals** to significantly improve bus service reliability and reduce overall bus service journey times
 - **Improvement to key junctions** to reduce congestion
 2. **Enhancing the quality of passenger facilities, information provision and vehicles by**
 - Improving bus stop facilities at major city centre locations by **installing new shelters and raised kerbs**
 - Extending our recently **upgraded real time information** system to cover key stops in more areas of the city
 - **Introducing electronic travel information kiosks** at principal interchange sites in the city centre and other important locations
 - **Introducing new vehicles** on some services in the city. This would be funded wholly by the bus companies
 3. **Making it easier and cheaper to travel by introducing joint operator ticketing by**
 - **Introducing a new joint operator disposable smartcard day ticket** based on the technology, currently in use in a neighbouring authority
 - **Developing a wider smartcard offer** to provide access to an extended range of public transport products in partnership with the major bus companies and adjacent authorities
 4. **Encouraging behaviour change through marketing and promotional activities using**
 - **Free bus tester tickets** to encourage car drivers to commute by bus
 - **Discounted ticketing for employees** to support company travel plans
 - **Road shows at major employers** and in the city centre providing information about bus services including route maps and site specific timetables
 - Area wide promotions in new and existing residential area served by good bus services to **reposition bus travel as a “normal” activity**
 - Working with the main bus operators to **deliver joint marketing activities** which promote travel by bus
 - **Working with Job Centre Plus** to provide accurate information for their clients to allow them to make more use of bus services
- 4.4 The works orders will be placed using existing term contracts and where new agreements are required we will source these through the Councils procurement process.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 None

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Service Director(s) Other(s)	Stuart Leslie, Director of Legal and Democratic Services Michael Kirk, Acting Head of Finance Tim Clegg, Director of Streetpride
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For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:	Tony Gascoigne 01332 641779 e-mail tony.gascoigne@derby.gov.uk None Appendix 1 – Implications
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IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 The grant award from the Department of Transport is unringfenced and states that “The purpose of the grant is to provide support to local authorities in England towards expenditure lawfully incurred or to be incurred by them”.
- 1.2 The grant is not time limited but the Department of Transport does require the Council to sign a declaration to be received by the Department of Transport by 31 March 2014 that :-

“To the best of our knowledge and belief, and having carried out appropriate investigations and checks, in our opinion, in all significant respects, the conditions attached to the Better Bus Areas Grant Determination 2012: No 31/2012 have been complied with”.

There is a risk of part / full repayment of the grant if the Council fails to comply with the terms associated with the grant. This is normal practice for these types of grants.

Legal

- 2.1 None directly arising.

Personnel

- 3.1 None directly arising.

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 None directly arising.

Health and Safety

- 5.1 None directly arising.

Environmental Sustainability

- 6.1 None directly arising.

Asset Management

- 7.1 None directly arising.

Risk Management

- 8.1 Financial; management will follow the Councils Contract and Financial Procedures Rules. Monitoring of the capital element of the proposed initiative will be reported through the Capital Monitoring Group.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 9.1 The Derby: Better by Bus initiative will help create **a thriving sustainable economy** and ensure **good quality services that meet local needs.**