

DECISION NOTICE

Notice is given that the following decision has been taken under the Provisions set out in the Council's Constitution

Decision maker: Cabinet Member for Environment

Date: 7 October 2013

Decision in the matter of: Community Transport Association Partnership Agreement

Decision:

1. That approval be given to the establishment of a partnership arrangement with the Community Transport Association (CTA).
2. That the Borough Solicitor, or an authorised signatory within the Legal Section, be authorised to sign the Partnership Agreement.
3. To officers be authorised to take all necessary action to implement and monitor the Partnership Agreement until 30 June 2014.

Background: To authorise the establishment of a Partnership Agreement with the Community Transport Association (CTA) to support the development and implementation of community and voluntary sector transport initiatives across Cheshire East.

Local communities are often best placed to identify their own transport needs and in some cases have the capacity to develop local solutions, particularly for those who do not have access to public or private transport. The Council is seeking innovative, creative ideas for community transport initiatives which are operated "by the community, for the community". The types of schemes which may be supported include community bus schemes, village minibus services, voluntary car schemes or shopmobility services to meet an identified need and enable people to access local services.

The CTA is a national, independent, "not for profit" organisation that has been working with community transport organisations for more than 20 years. They are recognised as the voice of voluntary and community transport in the UK and are uniquely placed to offer a range of support and advice services, training and resources to local community groups in Cheshire East.

The CTA team have an in-depth understanding of the governance, financial and operating environment of community transport with knowledge of the latest best practice schemes across the UK. They are also the leading training provider in all aspects of community transport and have developed the CTA Quality Mark which covers five areas of organisational performance, which are: governance, transport operations, personnel, health and safety, and corporate social responsibility.

The CTA will support the launch and implementation of the Transport & Accessibility Grant Scheme (subject to approval by Cabinet in October). The Partnership will support grant applicants to develop their ideas into robust Business Plans with future viability and sustainability built into the proposals from the outset, as well as appropriate governance, health and safety and other quality marks and safeguarding measures.

Background Documents: The background documents can be inspected by contacting the report writer.

Approved:

Signed
Councillor David Topping
Cabinet Member for the Environment

Date: 7 October 2013

Advising Officer:

Signed
Jenny Marston
Policy and Accessibility Manager