

Record of decision taken under delegated powers by a council officer



Title:	Surrey County Council Response to Covid: providing support to service providers for loss of on-bus revenue
Divisions Affected:	All Boroughs and Districts
Key Decision:	Yes
Reason Key:	Affects two or more Divisions
Decision taken under delegation by virtue of:	Cabinet decision 31 March 2020 Min ref: 41/20

Summary

Government has allocated £482,179 to Surrey County Council from its Covid Bus Service Support Fund (CBSSG), to support the significant revenue loss on tendered bus services which continue to operate, brought about by the huge drop in patronage during the Covid 19 pandemic lock-down. This covers a twelve-week period commencing 17 March 2020, in order to help sustain levels of service required and adequate for key worker travel and essential food shopping trips. Department for Transport allows local authorities to distribute this funding to compensate loss of farebox revenue, in addition to the request to continue making contract payments and concessionary fare reimbursements as normal. Revenue losses have been calculated which reflect the lower mileages generally being operated during the twelve-week period and have then been factored down for this and to align with the amount of funding overall that the government has allocated. Support will be provided using Government grant provided for this specific purpose, and will not create a financial pressure for the Council. Such support for tendered services cannot be obtained by contractors from other government funding. Payments are being made in accordance with the conditions outlined in the accompanying document template.

Decision made

Decision made:

It was AGREED that:

1. Payments would be made to 11 contractors (Arriva, Carlone, Compass, Falcon, Hallmark, London United, Metrobus, Reptons, Southdown, Stagecoach and White Bus), totalling £447,232 to be funded by the government's Covid Bus Service Support Grant.

Reasons for Decision:

To enable support for the continuation of bus services at a sufficient level for travel required by key NHS and other workers and for those needing to undertake essential food shopping, whilst providing support for the ramping-up of services with reduced revenue, as lock-down restrictions are eased.

Decision taken by:	Katie Stewart – Executive Director ETI Matt Furniss – Cabinet Member for Highways
Decision taken on:	3 rd June 2020
To be implemented on:	Payments backdated to 17/03/2020

Alternative options considered

The alternative is not to provide financial support, in which case the funding would have to be returned to the DfT. The funding will place contractors in a far-stronger financial position for when services need to be increased as more workers and school students start travelling as lock-down is eased and their services need to be increased to cater for social distancing on board.

Summary of any financial implications

The proposed payments totalling ££447,232 will be met from the Covid Bus Service Support Grant. The remainder of the grant will be used to support payments already approved.

Declarations of conflicts of interest

None

Consultation/Process Followed

Decision taken in consultation with Cabinet Member for Highways.



RE Delegated
decision re Covid-19

Background Documents

Exempt:

Cabinet report 31 st March 2020 setting out the council's response to Covid-19. Letter from DfT setting out CBSSG.	
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