



RHONDDA CYNON TAF

RECORD OF DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION

SUBJECT:

DEVELOPMENT OF A SUB-REGIONAL APPROACH TO PASSENGER TRANSPORT

PURPOSE OF ATTACHED REPORT:

1. To seek approval to investigate potential collaborative opportunities for the delivery of passenger transport services working with Merthyr Tydfil CBC, Bridgend CBC and The Vale of Glamorgan CBC.
2. In accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation, this report has been prepared to accompany the intended Officer decision of the Group Director Environmental Services.

DELEGATED DECISION (Date):

1. Consideration is given to the content of this report with regard to the potential benefits of collaboration.
2. Further research and discussion is undertaken with Merthyr Tydfil CBC, Bridgend CBC and Vale of Glamorgan CBC to evaluate the merits of the business case for potential collaboration.

J.S. Jones
Chief Officer Signature

GEORGE JONES
Print Name

18.03.13
Date

The decision is taken in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government Act, 2000 (Executive Functions) and in the terms set out in Section 5 of Part 3 of the Council's Constitution

A Morgan

CONSULTEE CABINET MEMBER SIGNATURE

18/3/2013

DATE

Nigel Brinn

OFFICER CONSULTEE SIGNATURE

18/03/13

DATE

Directorate:	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
Contact Name:	NIGEL BRINN
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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

**MUNICIPAL YEAR 2012 - 2013
REPORT TO ACCOMPANY DECISION OF
GROUP DIRECTOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

**Part 1
(Non-Confidential)**

**DEVELOPMENT OF A SUB-REGIONAL
APPROACH TO PASSENGER
TRANSPORT**

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval to investigate potential collaborative opportunities for the delivery of passenger transport services working with Merthyr Tydfil CBC, Bridgend CBC and The Vale of Glamorgan CBC.
- 1.2 In accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation, this report has been prepared to accompany the intended Officer decision of the Group Director Environmental Services as described below.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 Consideration is given to the content of this report with regard to the potential benefits of collaboration.
- 2.2 Further research and discussion is undertaken with Merthyr Tydfil CBC, Bridgend CBC and Vale of Glamorgan CBC to evaluate the merits of the business case for potential collaboration.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The SEWTA commissioned Edge Report identified opportunities for passenger transport collaboration across 4 sub-regions. Due to geographical proximity, size and current operating processes the report suggested that Rhondda Cynon Taf, Merthyr Tydfil and Bridgend collaborate sub-regionally to develop a central Integrated Transport Unit. The report also suggested that The Vale of Glamorgan could collaborate with Cardiff but due to existing close working ties with Bridgend, the Vale of Glamorgan is keen to also explore other collaborative opportunities. The Edge report predicts that collaboration on a sub-regional basis has the potential to reduce operating costs and enhance the customer experience.
- 3.2 Initial discussions between officers of the four authorities have identified a willingness to explore collaborative opportunities in relation to Passenger Transport as recommended in the Edge Report.

4 PROJECTED IMPACT OF COLLABORATION

4.1 Procurement

- 4.1.1 By opening up the tendering process sub-regionally it is anticipated that increased competition in the market place will result in reduced contract costs. Passenger Transport services account for around £40m of public expenditure across the four authorities.
- 4.1.2 Sub-regional route planning should result in a greater cohesion for cross-border journeys. For example Rhondda Cynon Taf, Merthyr Tydfil and Bridgend all provide transport for pupils attending Pencoed College. Regional route rationalisation will ensure that the minimum amount of transport is procured for such routes.

4.2 Staff

- 4.2.1 Such a scheme may produce efficiencies in staff costs depending on what structures are forthcoming.

4.3 Service Improvement

- 4.3.1 There are strengths and weaknesses in service provision across the sub-region. For example Rhondda Cynon Taf has an excellent data management system; Bridgend and Vale of Glamorgan provide pupils with photo passes and Merthyr Tydfil have relatively low costs per pupil for SEN travel.
- 4.3.2 Formal collaborative links will help to share good practice across the sub-region and make use of the particular strengths of each authority. This will positively impact upon the levels of service provided to residents of each authority.

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The information provided by the Edge report and outlined above suggests that sub-regional collaboration in Passenger Transport would result in a reduction of operating costs and an improvement in service provision for each authority. However, further research is required to develop a more accurate understanding of efficiency savings and opportunities for service improvement in the form of a robust business case.
- 5.2 Approval is therefore sought to progress the investigatory work further and if a beneficial business case is proven then further approval will be sought prior to progression and implementation.