

Agenda Item 9 – 17 March 2016

Motion 2 - proposed by Councillor Sandra Gage and seconded by Councillor Len Jacklin

“Rural campaign groups, such as the Rural Services Network and Campaign for Better Transport, state that a lack of transport provision is a primary cause of social isolation and economic exclusion. Rural transport enables people to access employment, training, services and leisure opportunities. Those on low incomes, with limited mobility and without access to a car, are particularly vulnerable if rural transport is cut.

This council believes that the planned 50% cut to County Council subsidy of Community Transport Operators (CTOs) over the next four years, with a move away from community based services, will have a negative impact on their ability to sustain an adequate level of provision in rural areas.

Furthermore, we believe that removing the opportunity for the Council to provide minibuses to smaller operators will reduce the ability of small operators to provide a service.

The Council’s new bus service model is being introduced without any attempt to consult communities and passenger needs.

Therefore, this Council calls on the administration to:

- A. Reverse the decision to reduce Council subsidy to Community Transport Operators by 50% over the next 4 years*
- B. Review the Rural Bus tender to ensure that the service remains a community led rather than commercially focused business.*
- C. Retain ownership of the Council fleet of minibuses*
- D. Set up a community transport user led performance group, to run from the start of the contracts, with the power to shape and agree the services provided through each of the contracts now awarded”*