

Area West Committee – 15th December 2010

## 6. Update on the Development of the Community Cars Scheme (Executive Decision)

*Strategic Director:* Rina Singh (Place and Performance)  
*Assistant Director:* Helen Rutter (Communities)  
*Service Manager:* Andrew Gillespie, Area Development Manager (West)  
*Lead Officer:* Zoë Harris, Community Regeneration Officer (West)  
*Contact Details:* zoe.harris@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01460 260423

### Purpose of the Report

To update members on the LSP project to develop a network of Community Car Schemes, across South Somerset.

### Public Interest

A proposal to set up a network of parish wide voluntary community car schemes is to be scrapped.

### Recommendation

To note the report and agree to return the £5,000 allocated to this project back to the Service Enhancement budget.

### Background

Earlier in the year a project originated from the South Somerset Together LSP to develop a network of community car schemes across the District. Three Area Committees each contributed £5,000 towards this project, which proposed to employ a part time Development Officer on an 18 month contract, to help set up and support up to 10 parish wide community car schemes and an accompanying umbrella group. In February 2010 Area West Committee agreed to support the project financially with £5,000 on condition that other partners, and particularly the NHS also contributed.

### Update on Funding the Proposed Community Car Scheme

The costs of setting up and running this project were expected to be in the region of £28,000. From experience it was recognised that the majority of the journeys would be to health related services e.g. GP surgeries, dentists, nursing homes etc. As a consequence, and as a partner of the LSP, the NHS was asked to contribute £5,000 towards the project. Somerset NHS felt that as they had recently set up Transporting Somerset, a service that transports patients into hospital appointments, they were not able to contribute towards another transport related scheme.

A subsequent funding bid to the RDPE (Rural Development Programme for England) failed. Last month the working group met and decided there was no value in pursuing this project further.

### Financial Implications

To return the £5,000 allocated towards the Community Cars project to the Service Enhancement Budget.

**Corporate Priority Implications**

No corporate priority implications.

**Carbon Emissions and Adapting to Climate Change Implications**

No climate change implications applicable.

**Equality and Diversity Implications**

No equality & diversity implications.

**Background Papers:** *AW Committee Report February 2010*

*Report to South Somerset Together 25 September 2009 –  
Community Transport*