



## **CABINET – 28TH FEBRUARY 2018**

**SUBJECT: SOCIAL SERVICES ASSISTED TRANSPORT POLICY**

**REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES AND SECTION 151 OFFICER**

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- 1.1 The attached report, which was presented to the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on 24th October 2017, sought the views of Members on the proposed Assisted Transport Policy for Adult Social Services, prior to consideration by Cabinet.
- 1.2 Members were advised that assisted transport is the discretionary provision of transport by Social Services to enable individuals to access the community support service for which individuals have been assessed as eligible to attend (such as day services). The policy has been drafted as a result of legislation which requires Council to change the way it works with people and to promote a focus on actively supporting people to develop lifestyles that are not reliant on statutory services.
- 1.3 It was explained that the aim of the new Assisted Transport Policy is to provide a clear framework for practitioners to assess and support individuals to identify methods of promoting independence when accessing transport. The policy will help identify what is available within the local community and provide a consistent approach to determining eligibility for funded transport where it has been identified as a requirement to access services commissioned by Social Services. The policy framework will also work in parallel with other Social Services policies for transport across the Gwent region.
- 1.4 The report proposed the implementation of the policy from 1st January 2018 for all new requests for transport made to Adult Social Services, and for it to be applied to the annual review of the care and support plan for existing service users. The key elements of the policy were outlined within the report and Members were referred to the report appendices which contained an easy read version and full version of the policy.
- 1.5 Clarification was sought on the criteria and assessment process for assisted transport and it was explained that the individual's support networks would be examined in the first instance, and if they have difficulty accessing these services then the Council will consider if they are able to provide transport. Discussion took place regarding the consideration of public transport within the assessment process, and assurances were given that practitioners will examine all options available (such as whether the community support service is a safe and reasonable distance via public transport) and that all assessments would be carried out on a case by case basis. It was confirmed that the Council's Integrated Transport Unit communicates with local bus companies regarding relevant routes and that the Council will look at other options available if there are changes to these routes that may affect the individual's ability to access community support.
- 1.6 A Member referred to a combination of transport options already utilised by some service users and welcomed the opportunities for independence and choice arising from the new policy. Discussion took place regarding transport arrangements across other authorities and it was confirmed that the same set of principles is being applied on a region-wide basis. In response to a Member's query, it was also confirmed that arrangements are in place (via

separate policies across other Council departments) for service users to access transport in order to attend college or other training

- 1.7 Following consideration of the report, the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee unanimously recommended to Cabinet that for the reasons contained therein, the Assisted Transport Policy as appended to the report be endorsed.
- 1.8 Cabinet are asked to note that following consideration by the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee, a number of amendments have been made to the proposed Assisted Transport Policy. The key amendments are the inclusion and clarity over timescales for assessment and appeals, which are contained in Sections 5 and 7 of the proposed policy. The amended version of the proposed Assisted Transport Policy is attached at Appendix A1 for Members' consideration, together with the amended Easy Read version of this policy (Appendix A2). Also appended to this report are the original documents presented to the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on 24th October 2017 (Appendix B).
- 1.9 Cabinet are asked to consider the proposed Assisted Transport Policy as amended and the recommendation of the Scrutiny Committee.

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Appendices:

- Appendix A1 Proposed Assisted Transport Policy (amended version)
- Appendix A2 Proposed Assisted Transport Policy - Easy Read (amended version)
- Appendix B Report to Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny on 24th October 2017 - Agenda Item 9