

## **Decision Record – Proposed Better Bus Area Fund Bid: Service X14 (Stratford upon Avon-Warwick-Kenilworth-Coventry-Nuneaton-Hinckley)**

**Cabinet Portfolio Holder taking decision: *name and portfolio***

**Councillor Peter Butlin – Portfolio Holder for Transport & Highways**

**Date of Decision: (NOT BEFORE 1 March 2012 )**

**1 March 2012**

### **Decision taken**

I, as Portfolio Holder for Transport and Highways, endorse the submission to the Department for Transport for a Better Bus Fund Area Bid in respect of Service X14.

### **Reasons for Decisions**

The bid would meet the objectives set by the DfT in relation to economic growth and reducing carbon emissions.

### **Background Information/ factors considered in arriving at these decisions - (set out below):**

In December 2011 the Department for Transport invited local authorities to submit bids for a new £50m Better Bus Areas Fund initiative which is aimed at encouraging local authorities to work in partnership with bus operators to increase passenger numbers.

Officers have been working with Stagecoach Midlands to submit a bid based on a partnership approach in relation to a new service – X14 (Stratford upon Avon-Warwick-Kenilworth-Coventry-Nuneaton-Hinkley). Halcrow has been commissioned to develop the bid document for submission to the Department for Transport.

The proposed Service X14 timetable requires a total of four double-decker buses to operate (see financial implications below) with Stagecoach Midlands are willing to fund two of the buses.

The Department for Transport plans to award funding at the end of March 2012. If the bid is successful, Count Council officers will manage both the delivery and operation of the scheme. This includes responsibility for the management of the capital and revenue grant provided by the DfT and also the actual bus contract with Stagecoach Midlands in relation to the operation of Service X14.

## Financial and Legal Implications

The County council can bid up to £5m, which can be a mixture of capital and revenue.

The bid covers:

- The capital cost of two new low floor double-decker buses.
- Revenue support to operate the service over a two year period (2012-13 to 2013-14) and
- Staff, marketing and passenger survey costs

The total grant sought is £1,231,723 (£380,000 capital and £851,723 revenue)The partnership contribution from Stagecoach Midlands has reduced the amount of capital funding required.

If the bid is successful, the partnership will work towards ensuring that as much as possible of the proposed Service X14 bus service route is operated on a commercial basis after the funding expires at the end of 2013-14.

Report Author:	Nigel Whyte
Head of Service:	Graeme Fitton
Strategic Director:	Monica Fogarty
Portfolio Holder	Peter Butlin (Highways and Transport)

## Checklist

**Urgent matter: yes/no\***

No

**Confidential or Exempt (state category of exempt information)**

No

**Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework**

No

**List of Reports considered** [please attach or forward a copy]

Report (text included above).

**List of Background Papers** [please include directorate contact names and numbers for access to background papers]

**None**

**Any members and officers consulted or informed and any comments given.**

**For Comment:**

Cllr P Butlin (decision maker).

Ian Marriott

Roger Newham

Peter Barnett

Kevin McGovern

Adrian Hart

**For information:**

Cllrs Whitehouse, Johnston, Sweet and Saint.