

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

REQUEST FOR THE USE OF EMERGENCY POWERS – CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

SUBJECT: Passenger Transport Payments

1. **Originating / Department / Service** – Neighbourhood Services and Transport

2. **Reason for Seeking Emergency Powers** - To ensure Passenger Transport Providers continue to exist after the Covid-19 pandemic.

PLEASE SPECIFY BELOW and attach appropriate Committee report / minute/ memo * (* delete as appropriate)

Attached letter from WG (Ken Skates) and further letter from WLGA (Cllr Andrew Morgan) recommends making 75% daily payments if services are suspended during the pandemic and 100% payments if operators provide some form of services (albeit a reduced service).

Passenger Transport providers are limited in supply, not only in the Vale of Glamorgan, but also Wales wide. This pandemic could potentially cripple the market in Wales and leave us with too few operators to provide the statutory transport function that Local Authorities have a duty to.

The continuation of payments would go some way to keeping existing operators. Operators would need to agree to the attached indemnity letter (currently with Legal for comment) which points out that operators must pay their staff and ensure services can recommence once required.

The 100% payments for these services would already have been committed for the 2020/21 financial year and would be funded from both Council budget and Welsh Government grants. Therefore continuation of payments would not have a financial implication, albeit the LA would be paying a retainer for a service that is not currently being provided but will be once the pandemic is over.

This would be applicable to local financially supported bus services, school transport services (ALN and mainstream) and social service services day centre transport.

3. **Policy Framework and Budget** –

PLEASE INDICATE as appropriate that the matter that you are seeking the use of Emergency Powers for is a Cabinet or Council function.

Cabinet

Council

4. **Relevant Scrutiny Committee** – Environment and Housing

IMPORTANT

The following sections **must** be completed **prior** to the request being submitted to the Democratic and Scrutiny Services Section for processing.

I confirm (delete as appropriate)

(a) That there are no financial implications and the relevant Cabinet Member, Leader and / or the Deputy Leader has been consulted and is in agreement with the use of Emergency Powers; **or**

~~(b) That, in view of the financial commitments, the Head of Financial Services, the appropriate Chief Officer, the relevant Cabinet Member, Leader and / or Deputy Leader have been consulted and are in agreement with the use of the Emergency Powers and that~~

~~(c) For matters relating to the Planning Committee the Chairman of the Planning Committee has also been consulted and is in agreement with the use of Emergency Powers;~~

~~(d) For matters relating to the Licensing Committee the Chairman of the Licensing Committee has also been consulted and is in agreement with the use of Emergency Powers.~~

~~(e) For matters relating to the Welsh Church Act Estate Committee the Chairman of the Welsh Church Act Estate Committee has also been consulted and is in agreement with the use of Emergency Powers.~~

~~(f) For matters relating to policy the relevant Scrutiny Committee Chairman has been consulted and is in agreement with the use of Emergency Powers.~~

Signed:E Reed **Date:**31/3/20
(Instructing Chief Officer)

Please print name: ...E Reed

I hereby approve under my Emergency Powers the attached recommendation(s) on behalf of the Cabinet / Council (please delete as appropriate).

Signed:D R Thomas **Date:** ...31/3/20.....
Managing Director

NB Should the relevant portfolio Cabinet Member be unable to be consulted only the Leader and / or Deputy Leader be consulted in their absence.

N.B. Cabinet: 23rd March, 2020 Minute No. 295