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To Parish Councils  
Via email

My ref: MD-150/CM

Your Ref:

Date: 7 July 2017

Dear Parish Clerk

### **Staffordshire Subsidised Bus Review Consultation**

I wanted to share with you in advance our plans to launch a public consultation on 24 July on four potential options to provide subsidised bus travel in the county in 2018/19.

All bus journeys made in Staffordshire are operated by either private bus companies or by voluntary and community organisations.

Although more than 90 per cent of these trips are made without any subsidy, the County Council currently pays as much as £10 per passenger journey where there are too few people using them or, not enough money paid, to make the service commercially viable.

In February 2016, a decision was made at Full Council to review the budget for subsidised bus travel in order to continue to protect and fund statutory responsibilities, which this year for example will see us need to spend a record £300m on care.

Four options on how the smaller £1.3m bus subsidy budget could be best spent next year have now been developed. These consider a range of factors including; the amount of subsidy, number of passengers, education, employment and health travel and access to other public transport. In brief the options are:

- Option 1: This is the preferred option as it maintains the greatest number of journeys currently subsidised by the County Council – and the lowest subsidy per passenger trip at £1.60. There would be no Dial-a-Ride services
- Option 2: Maintains fewer bus journeys, but maintains the South Staffordshire and Staffordshire Moorlands Connect. These Dial-a-Ride services would be subsidised at £8.20 per passenger trip



- Option 3: Protects even fewer supported local bus services, but keeps all four existing Dial-a-Ride services, except Border Car, at a subsidy of £8.80
- Option 4: Provides a county-wide network of Dial-a-Ride services at an average cost of £10 per passenger journey. No other bus journeys will be subsidised

As well as continuing to subsidise some journeys the County Council remains committed to helping community and voluntary schemes to flourish. As your council is very much at the heart of the community we would be particularly keen to hear from you how you think this may work in your area.

Fuller details of the options and routes for subsidised journeys on local buses and the Dial-a-Ride services will be available when the consultation goes live on 24 July at [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/busreview](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/busreview) There will be a separate questionnaire for organisations such as town and parish councils.

We look forward to working with you to deliver a final proposal to Cabinet in the autumn and see the changes implemented in April 2018.

Yours sincerely



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