

Record of operational decision

Decision title:	Community Car Club – Award of contract to Malvern Hills Car Club to run an 18 month pilot car club scheme in up to six areas.
Date of decision:	23 August 2021
Decision maker:	Director of Economy and Place
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>Decision taken by Cabinet to approve the COVID 19 Recovery Plan on 24 June 2021: That authority be delegated to the Director of Economy and Place, Director Adults and Communities, Director Children and Families and Director of Public Health be authorised to take all operational decisions to implement recommendation including, but not limited to, the procurement and commissioning of the identified projects (as set out in the detailed action plan)</p> <p>http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieIssueDetails.aspx?IId=50037702&PlanId=0&Opt=3#A158109</p>
Ward:	Countywide
Consultation:	<p>The COVID Recovery Plan was approved by Cabinet on 24 June 2021 which provides funding of £6m to support economy, community wellbeing and organisational recovery. The plan provided an overview of the schemes for delivery, which included the “Return to Towns and Cities” scheme and all appropriate consultation was undertaken at this time.</p> <p>The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and supportive of the project.</p>
Decision made:	<p>To incentivise people to get back to leisure/ social activities, working out of home, exploring new places, and helping people to access new jobs by commissioning Malvern Hills Car Club (MHCC) to deliver an 18 month community car club pilot in up to six areas, with learning reviews to test commitment and future viability at a cost of £46,000. This funding will be spent in the first six months. With funding for the remaining 12 months coming from internal revenue budgets.</p> <p>This is a direct award to MHCC. A waiver has been granted under the Council’s contract procedure rules.</p>
Reasons for decision:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A community car club is a local, member-based initiative that provides access to pay-as-you-drive vehicles. Community car clubs are typically run by local groups to support their communities • Car clubs can improve accessibility to transport provision for residents particularly in rural areas • Car clubs can help households reduce their carbon footprint by not owning a car and having more consideration about car use • A number of towns and villages have expressed interest in establishing community clubs including Leominster, Ross, Ledbury, Kington, Sutton St Nicholas and Fownhope • Herefordshire residents are enthusiastic but a high level of commitment and knowledge is required to set up a scheme

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New car clubs cannot currently get insurance so hence the direct award to MHCC to administer this pilot • MHCC helped support the establishment of the St James & Bartonsham car club. MHCC has also been liaising and offering advice to residents in towns and villages currently interested in establishing a community car club.
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	The COVID recovery plan budget allocation must be committed within the 2021/22 financial year, the council want to ensure that this money can reach those smaller groups who can really make a difference in Herefordshire's communities and to the residents of Herefordshire by reducing car ownership and use and increasing accessibility.
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Award grants directly to interested communities – rejected as new car clubs cannot currently get car insurance. • Engage with national car clubs – rejected as following previous consultation these communities would be too small for larger operators.
Details of any declarations of interest made:	None

I am an officer delegated to make the decision

Signed:

Print Name: Neil Taylor

Job Title: Director for Economy and Place