

## Overview of Responses and Recommendations

Budget Proposals 16/17: Shopmobility		Andy Day - Head of Strategic Support	19 January 2016 Version 2 (Exec)
<b>Proposal:</b>	To reduce the funding provided to Shopmobility.		
<b>Total budget 15/16:</b>	£26,000	<b>Recommended officer saving 16/17:</b>	£0 (0%)
<b>Initial proposed saving 16/17:</b>	£12,000 (46%)	<b>Final recommendation to Executive 16/17:</b>	To continue to fund this service at the current level.
<b>Nos of responses:</b>	Seventeen responses were received in total, nine of which were from non users of the service.		
<b>Key issues raised:</b>	<p>The concerns raised by those that responded centred on the potential for this proposal to deprive elderly, infirm or disabled individuals with the ability to come into Newbury Town Centre and shop just like any other individual. Many comments suggested that the Town Centre's offering would be diminished by the reduction in funding for this service.</p> <p>There were no other issues raised but the overwhelming view was that the service was both well used and valued.</p>		
<b>Equality issues:</b>	None were drawn out from the responses other than those already picked up in the Equalities Impact Assessment.		
<b>Suggestions for reducing the impact on service users:</b>	<b>Suggestion</b>	<b>Council response</b>	
	The only suggestion forthcoming was from the Volunteer Centre West Berkshire who suggested that they would use reserves to fund this service, but that this would not be sustainable in the long term.	The proposal by the Volunteer Centre West Berkshire to use their reserves to fund this service in the short term should be welcomed. However, given that the public health grant is ring fenced for a further two years it is suggested that the Council continue to fund this service until this position changes.	
<b>Alternative options for applying the saving in this area:</b>	<b>Suggestion</b>	<b>Council response</b>	
	No suggestions were forthcoming.	This funding comes from the Public Health ring fenced grant and given that the Government has recently confirmed that this will remain ring fenced for the next two years the Council could decide to continue to fund this service at the current rate.	

**NB:** This overview and recommendation paper should be read in conjunction with the Summary of Responses and Verbatim Responses received in relation to this proposal, circulated electronically to all members alongside the agenda pack and published online on our [Consultation Portal](#).

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<b>Suggestions for how others may help contribute:</b>	There were no other suggestions forthcoming given that this service is run by volunteers already.		
<b>Officer conclusion as a result of the responses:</b>	The exercise has not highlighted any impacts that are not already anticipated.		
<b>Officer recommendation as a result of responses:</b>	Feedback has not uncovered any further issues which would prevent the council from proceeding with this proposal. However, as this service is currently funded by the ring fenced Public Health grant, which will be ring fenced for the next two years, it is recommended that the Council continues to fund this service at this time.		

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