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## SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

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### Background

As part of a Community Planning review of Community & Passenger Transport provision locally, Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership (CPP) is implementing a collaborative approach to transport provision across the Borders. As part of this approach a sustainable transport framework agreement is being developed covering all passenger transport services for use by all CPP organisations. It is intended for this agreement to be in place early 2015.

The CPP includes Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders, Borders College, Housing Associations and Registered Social Landlords, Police Scotland, Fire and Rescue, the voluntary sector organisations and other related parties.

CPP organisations estimate a collective spend of around £10m annually on transport services, namely:

- £8.3M for Scottish Borders Council;
- £1M for NHS Borders (around BGH and other healthcare sites);
- £0.6M for Borders College; and
- £0.2M for other partners, largely in ad hoc spend.

There are already 2.5million passenger transport journeys made annually in the Borders, with all CPP organisations anticipating growth, not least given the Borders Railway implementation in September 2015.

To support this cross sector approach and to coordinate services more effectively and efficiently a shared commissioning approach is being taken to manage long term transport aspirations. This framework agreement aims to underpin this new way of working and further integrate community and passenger transport provision in the Borders.

### Purpose of the Framework

With this level of expenditure CPP transport activity is significant and consolidating will create a platform which will:

- Provide a new approach to community and passenger transport;
- Acknowledge the significant geographic pressures;
- Strengthen working together – the CPP and operators alike;
- Consider changing user needs/ expectations; and
- Make transport a key enabler for other efficiency and transformation initiatives.

### Framework Lots

- Short Notice & Urgent Transport
- Mainstream Education Transport (School & College Campuses)
- Additional Needs, Social Care, Healthcare & other transport
- Supported Local Bus Services

## Potential Benefits

Creating this new framework agreement offers opportunities to both the CPP and transport providers. Some of the expected benefits of the new approach being taken include:

- Promotion of greater stability in the passenger transport market (through longer contracts, more opportunities, access to all CPP organisations & other related bodies);
- To encourage innovation in the passenger transport market locally;
- Support capacity building in local communities;
- Encouragement of investment via private and voluntary sector;
- Delivery of efficiencies and savings (through economies of scale, formalising ad hoc arrangements, and aggregating administration);
- To improve quality of provision across public and voluntary sector partners;
- To facilitate more accessible and flexible transport provision across partners; and
- To complement activities on the Borders Railway.

## Provider Information Sessions

A series of information sessions for transport service providers were held week commencing 25<sup>th</sup> August 2014 and took place at two locations, Borders General Hospital (BGH) Education Centre, Melrose and Lanark Lodge Day Centre, Duns. Representatives from the Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership were in attendance to discuss the framework and answer questions. The events were well attended with a lot of constructive comment and questions being put forward by service providers that will be considered as the detailed specification and Invitation to Tender (ITT) are finalised in the coming weeks.

The ITT is intended to be issued at the end of September 2014, which sees the start of the procurement process proper and to enable the framework to be in place by the end of January 2015.

## Community Benefits/ Social Value

A new “*Adding Value to Communities through Procurement Policy*” was agreed in March this year and implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014. This policy creates an opportunity to add community benefit through economic, environmental and/ or social means to appropriate contracts. Operators may be asked to consider added value in line with contracts awarded to them via this framework agreement.