
Report To:	The Inverclyde Council	Date: 12 April 2012
Report By:	Corporate Director Regeneration & Environment	Report No: RMcG/LA/843/12
Contact Officer:	Rona McGhee	Contact No: 01475 712113
Subject:	Motion by East Dunbartonshire Council - Bus Services Operators' Grants	

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider the attached motion from East Dunbartonshire Council requesting that the Council support its motion relative to Bus Services Operators' Grants.

APPENDIX

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Transport Scotland has operated the Bus Services Operators' Grant (BSOG) scheme since 1 April 2010 (prior to this it was administered by the Department of Transport on a UK wide basis). BSOG is paid to commercial and community bus operators, the principal aim being to benefit passengers by helping operators to keep fares down and to run services that might not otherwise be commercially viable. It also contributes to the operation of community transport organisations allowing people who cannot use conventional bus services to access local services. Within Inverclyde, the community bus operators include Inverclyde Voluntary Council for Social Services and Port Glasgow Transport.

2.2 From 1 April 2012, BSOG will only be payable on mileage run on an eligible service and fuel use will no longer be a factor in calculating BSOG payments. The payment rate from 1 April 2012 is 14.4 pence per kilometre. The rate payable to 31 March was based on fuel and the payment rate was 41.21p per litre.

2.3 Amendments to the Public Service Vehicles (Registration of Local Services) (Scotland) Regulations 2001 and the Bus Service Operators Grant (Scotland) Regulations 2002 came into effect from 1 April 2012. These allow fully flexible services that are available to the general public to be registered as local bus services and these services will also now be able to claim BSOG.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

3.1 The Council is requested to consider the attached motion.

Rona McGhee
Legal & Democratic Services



Your Ref:
Our Ref: GC/MAM

30 March 2012

To all Scottish Local Authority Chief Executives

GERRY CORNES
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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Dear Chief Executive,

At its meeting on Thursday 15th March 2012, East Dunbartonshire Council approved the undernoted Motion.

"1. This Council believes that appropriate transport links are essential to the wellbeing of local communities across East Dunbartonshire. That the Scottish Government, Strathclyde Passenger Transport and bus service operators should work closely to protect and reinstate vital bus services with emphasis on people and communities rather than profitability.

2. This Council supports Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) proposals to seek variation to the existing regulatory provisions to improve the co-ordination and delivery of bus services.

3. This Council notes concern on the Scottish Government's decision to:

(a) Reduce the budget for the Bus Service Operator Grants by some 20%

(b) Change the method it uses to calculate payments to bus operators under the concessionary travel scheme, both from 1st April 2012, which will have a harmful effect on bus services across East Dunbartonshire.

4. This Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the First Minister urging his Government to reconsider both these decisions, which will have harmful social and environmental consequences across the length and breadth of Scotland.

5. This Council agrees to send copies of this Motion to the Chief Executives of all Scottish Councils Regional Transport Partnerships and to COSLA requesting their political support."

You will note that point 5 agrees that copies of the Motion be sent to Chief Executives of all Scottish Councils requesting their political support.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely

GERRY CORNES
CHIEF EXECUTIVE