

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

REQUEST FOR THE USE OF EMERGENCY POWERS – CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

SUBJECT: Passenger Transport Payments Q.2 (2020-21)

1. **Originating / Department / Service –**

Environment and Housing /Neighbourhood Services and Transport

2. **Reason for Seeking Emergency Powers -**

To ensure Passenger Transport Providers continue to exist after the Covid-19 pandemic.

PLEASE SPECIFY BELOW ~~and attach appropriate Committee report/
minute/ memo~~ * (* delete as appropriate)

Recommendations were previously agreed by CMT for Q1 (20/21) payments to Passenger Transport providers in line with Welsh Government and WLGA recommendations. It was agreed to make 75% daily payments if services were suspended during the pandemic and 100% payments if operators provided some form of service (albeit a reduced service).

[https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/ Committee%20Reports/Scrutiny%20information/Corona-Virus-EP-Updates/Tranche-1-23-Mar-to-07-Apr-2020/11-Passenger-Transport-Payments.pdf](https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Committee%20Reports/Scrutiny%20information/Corona-Virus-EP-Updates/Tranche-1-23-Mar-to-07-Apr-2020/11-Passenger-Transport-Payments.pdf)

Unfortunately, whilst the current Covid-19 pandemic situation is improving within Wales, the Country or local area has not fully emerged from lockdown, which in turn is limiting the way passenger transport services can be safely supplied in line with current guidance. In addition, as it was previously noted, Passenger Transport providers are limited in supply, not only in the Vale of Glamorgan, but also Wales wide. The threat remains that the pandemic could potentially cripple this industry in Wales and leave us with too few operators to provide the statutory transport function that Local Authorities have a duty to.

Therefore, emergency powers are requested for the continuation of payments for Q.2 (20-21) in line with those to date for Q.1 (20-21) that would go some way to keeping existing operators. Operators would need to agree to a new indemnity letter for this period, which points out that operators must pay their staff and ensure services can recommence once required.

This would not apply to school transport services, at present, which are once again being paid at 100% of their daily price as schools have reopened and transport provision has recommenced. However, should there be a second lockdown period in Q.2 (20/21) it would be recommended that operators immediately get paid 75% for the services that do not run.

The 100% payments for these services would already have been committed for the 2020/21 financial year and would be funded from both Council budget and Welsh Government grants. Therefore, continuation of payments would not have a financial implication, albeit the LA would be paying a retainer for a service that is not currently being provided but will be once the pandemic is over.

The situation will continue to be monitored and actions taken in line with any further guidance that may be issued by WG and/or WLGA in order to emerge from this situation.

This would be applicable to local financially supported bus services, social services day centre transport and potentially school transport provision in September, if a further lockdown is required.

3. Policy Framework and Budget –

PLEASE INDICATE as appropriate that the matter that you are seeking the use of Emergency Powers for is a Cabinet or Council function.

Cabinet

Council

4. Relevant Scrutiny Committee –

Environment and Housing

IMPORTANT

The following sections **must** be completed **prior** to the request being submitted to the Democratic and Scrutiny Services Section for processing.

I confirm (delete as appropriate)

(a) That there are no financial implications and the relevant Cabinet Member, Leader and / or the Deputy Leader has been consulted and is in agreement with the use of Emergency Powers; ~~or~~

~~(b) That, in view of the financial commitments, the Head of Financial Services, the appropriate Chief Officer, the relevant Cabinet Member, Leader and / or Deputy Leader have been consulted and are in agreement with the use of the Emergency Powers and that~~

~~(c) For matters relating to the Planning Committee the Chairman of the Planning Committee has also been consulted and is in agreement with the use of Emergency Powers;~~

~~(d) For matters relating to the Licensing Committee the Chairman of the Licensing Committee has also been consulted and is in agreement with the use of Emergency Powers.~~

