

## **Offer from KCC: Donation of 2015 Fiat Ducato Accessible Minibus with Tail Lift**

### **1. Background**

Kent County Council has offered to transfer ownership of a 2015 Fiat Ducato 14 seat minibus, fitted with a tail lift to support wheelchair access, at no asset cost to the Town Council.

The vehicle has historically been used for community transport purposes and presents an opportunity to enhance local accessible travel provision within Faversham. Having use of a spare vehicle rather than having to hire one would be beneficial, particularly in the case of a breakdown or technical issue with our main vehicle.

**The acceptance of this offer would not prevent the Town Council from making a grant application with KCC for a new vehicle.**

### **2. Financial Implications**

While there is no capital purchase cost, there are running costs to factor in.

#### **2.1 Road Tax (Vehicle Excise Duty)**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Annual Cost</b>
Road Tax	<b>£345</b>

#### **2.2 Maintenance Budget**

Given the vehicle's age (10 years) and specialist equipment (tail lift), a prudent annual maintenance budget is required.

<b>Cost Category</b>	<b>Estimated Annual Cost</b>
Routine servicing	£300 – £600
Repairs (tyres, brakes, etc.)	£800 – £1,500
Tail lift servicing & inspection	£300 – £600
MOT & compliance	£60 – £100
Vehicle Livery/Branding	£750

**Total Estimated Annual Maintenance Cost:**

**£2,500 – £3,000 (recommended planning figure)**

## 2.3 Additional Financial Considerations

The following costs are not included above but will need to be met from existing or identified budgets:

- Insurance: £3,529.59 is the total annual premium for this year from our insurer, QBE.
- Fuel

## 3. Operational Considerations

- The tail lift enables **wheelchair-accessible transport**, expanding inclusivity.
- The vehicle could support:
  - Be a back-up for our normal service vehicle
  - Be hired to local community groups/private hire – as an example, Sheppey Wheels private hire rate is £198 for a full day, £148 for half day hire with a driver provided.
  - Partnerships with local organisation

## 4. Risks

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
Age-related mechanical failure	Maintain contingency budget
Tail lift repair costs	Regular servicing and inspection

## 5. Options

### Option 1: Accept the Donation

- Gains a valuable community asset at no capital cost
- Requires commitment to ongoing revenue expenditure

### Option 2: Decline the Donation

- Avoids ongoing costs and operational responsibility
- Missed opportunity to enhance the Faversham Hopper.

## 6. Recommendation

That the Active Travel Committee:

1. Agrees to accept the donation of the 2015 Fiat Ducato.