

## **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 by:

- Providing a back up for our current leased vehicle
- Hiring to local community groups

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. This would mean limited disruption to our bus services.

The acceptance of this offer would not prevent the Town Council from making a grant application with KCC for a new vehicle. There are no requirements for the Town Council to retain the vehicle, and it could be sold to support Active Travel projects.

### **2. Estimated Value**

The estimated financial value of the minibus, looking at similar vehicles is approximately £10,000.

Equivalent vehicle listed on minibus dealer, Red Kite's website:

2015 Peugeot Boxer 59k miles      £13,750 exc VAT

Equivalent vehicle listed on CarGurus website:

2014 Fiat Ducato 92k miles      £9,431

### **3. Costs of Hiring a Bus**

When our lease vehicle has been a way for servicing and MOT, we have incurred costs of hiring a minibus. As an example in August 2024, we incurred:

£550.56 hire costs for one week plus  
£120.42 in amended insurance fees.

### **4. Financial Implications**

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

Road Tax (Vehicle Excise Duty) Item Road Tax Annual Cost £345

#### **Maintenance Budget**

Given the vehicle's age (11 years) and specialist equipment (tail lift), a prudent annual maintenance budget is required.

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

**5. Additional Financial Considerations**

The following costs are not included above but will need to be met from Active Travel EMRs.

**Insurance: £3,529.59** is the total annual premium for this year from our insurer, QBE. This premium covers us hiring the vehicle to local community groups with their own driver so long as we undertake licence checks on the driver to ensure they comply with the terms of our insurance.

**6. Providing Transport for Local Community Groups**

There are many community groups that could benefit from reasonably priced minibus hire.

The average cost of diesel in the local area is currently £1.95. It would be reasonable to ensure that the tank is full when the vehicle goes on hire and to require that the hirer returns the vehicle with a full tank.

**Note**

Other Community bus providers in the Swale/Ashford provide minibus hire. Wealden Wheels charges a per mile between £1.40-£2.20 depending on whether a driver is provided and the size of the minibus. Sheppey Wheels charge a flat half day rate of £149 or a full day £198 on the basis of a driver provided.

**7. Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Active Travel Committee accepts the donation of the minibus with a view to retaining the vehicle as a spare for the bus services, and developing a minibus hire provision for local community groups.

Costs		Benefits
MOT	£60-£100	Spare vehicle when required without incurring hire and insurance costs and limits disruption to the bus service
Repairs	£800-£1500	
LOLER & inspections	£300-£600	
Vehicle Branding	£750	Provide a reasonable cost minibus hire for local community groups
Insurance	£3529.59	
Road Tax	£345	