



**** Important Announcement ****

It is with great reluctance that the Board of **Enfield Community Transport (ECT)** has unanimously taken the view that it will have to fully cease all operations by the **31st March 2018**. We regret, and apologise for, any inconvenience this may cause to you and your clients, but we feel we have reached a point where this decision is a necessary one.

The Board has a Legal and Fiduciary duty to consider the viability of ECT going into 2018/19 and future years based on its current financial position and its ability to cover its liabilities.

There are several issues which are of concern to the Board and which directly affect the ongoing viability of ECT. These are:

- that the withdrawal of Council Grant has now been fully implemented and that there will be no grant in 2018/19 or later years
- that whilst the Board accepts the loss of the Grant and has taken steps to mitigate its effect it has meant that in 2016/17 and 2017/18 ECT has had to draw on its reserves to cover its operating costs
- there has been a loss of existing business to ECT and attempts to take on new business opportunities have not been successful to the degree required to replace lost work
- that the submission of tenders, for additional work, has not been successful and shows a lack of parity with the private sector
- that the Board is in no position to replace its ageing fleet of vehicles and will face rising maintenance costs
- the opportunities to attract sponsorship, which have been explored, have not been successful and the opportunity for these is becoming more and more restricted
- the Board has pursued a number of potential collaborations with other like organisations but they, too, have a number of constraints, including financial, which meant new projects could not proceed

- there are, in the judgement of the Board, no further reductions which can be made on staff or running costs
- that there are potential legislative changes being considered in regard to Community Transport organisations which could severely affect their ability to operate
- There are continuing difficulties in recruiting volunteer drivers despite recruitment initiatives.

We have appreciated the support we have received and are pleased to have been able to provide, for over 30 years, a much-valued service to local organisations that do so much for the community. We are very sad that we have to give notice of our intention to cease operation.

Though the loss of the grant has been a factor, in a more favourable financial and trading climate, allied to the efficiencies we have made, and with a little more good fortune in our fundraising efforts, we may have been able to continue; therefore, the loss of grant is not of itself the reason for closure of ECT.

Thank you once again for all your help and support over the years; hopefully, we can engage in continued co-operation over the coming months following this decision.