Thirteen Councils represented, 9 apologies - meeting not quorate therefore, no decisions taken.

1 Received a presentation from Alison Owen, project co-ordinator: ‘Supporting Community Transport in Wales’.

Run largely by volunteer drivers, schemes need to be flexible to community they serve; should be door to door; bring people together. Where ‘health transport journeys’ are required to support people to attend appointments/clinics, Community Transport can help reduce waiting times and reduce health care costs (missed appointments) and improve community health with more timely interventions and support of care needs. Examples of various schemes. In common: with all styles of scheme, demand outstrips supply and there is a need for more volunteer drivers.

Variety of schemes include: cars, taxis, minibus, EV cars, retrofitted EV bikes, 7-seater vehicles, SUSTRANS loans to Public Service Employees across the Gwent region – green agenda E-Bikes.

Request, via councils, to share good practice and promote need for volunteer drivers.

2 Tom Kirton volunteered to lead the meeting and, when quorate, has offered to stand for Committee Chair. Minutes accepted, agreed vote to be deferred to **April meeting which will be a face-to-face session at Usk Sessions House 18th April 2024**. John Davies requested that Community Councils be included in more discussions eg charters and provided with on-line materials. There is an upcoming conference (on-line). OVW National Awards Scheme re-instated. Cllr Simcock advised Abergavenny Town Council would be entering 5 categories. Re: Asset Transfers, Clerks to look out for devolution of services information and renewal of charters. **Training and Grants**, February cut off, Governance Finance Toolkit available before end of financial year. Cost of Living survey – Lyn Cadwallader - issued 12th December (several Clerks stated they had not received the survey). Clerks to return survey by 19th January 2024. **Brief reports round table on Community Involvement.** Cllr Simcock reported on Wales/Britain in Bloom involvement; Christmas Light switch-on and Christmas markets. Cllrs from other areas reported on their Christmas events. **Consultation.** (i)Local Government Finance Wales Bill; (ii) Local Transport Bill (Cllr Simcock shared ATC concerns about difficulty of accessing the on-line survey). (iii) Future Spending of Dormant Assets. [28th February 24] (iv) Fiscal intergovernmental relations – formal response requested by 1st March 2024. **Guest speakers for April meeting:** presentations by (i) Cost of Living Team. (ii) Democratic and Electoral Services – please forward questions to Maria OVW. **Correspondence:** OVW National Awards, OVW Election of Officers. NEW Gwent Citizens Panel (GCP) ‘Newsburst’ newsletter [weekly] featuring Health and Social Services information and opportunities for local communities. **AOB** report back on grassroots feeling of 20MPH zones. Requests for topics for consideration at OVW committee meetings.

**April meeting which will be a face-to-face session at Usk Sessions House 18th April 2024, 7-9pm**