



### Applications for grant funding: Community Transport

**Committee** Operations Committee

**Date of meeting** 30 April 2021

**Date of report** 14 April 2021

#### Report by Assistant Chief Executive

#### 1. Object of report

To recommend the Committee approves grant funding in support of projects provided by Community Transport (CT) operators across Strathclyde.

#### 2. Background

Community Transport operators deliver much needed transport to the local communities and voluntary groups, particularly the elderly, disabled and those on low income. These services are designed to promote and support the delivery of high quality, reliable and accessible transport to communities across the SPT area. This report covers 18 Community Transport operators located across Strathclyde. All applications have been considered in line with funding availability.

Clearly given the current public health crisis and the government guidance of not using public transport unless essential, there are significant impacts on all operators, including community transport operators. During the pandemic, Community Transport providers have altered their activities to support their local communities in response. For example, these have included providing food and prescription deliveries, transport to vaccination appointments, and transportation of medical supplies and samples. Work will continue with all operators to determine the level of service they are currently providing and are likely to be providing in the coming months, but recognition has been given to the lifeline services these groups provide and the need to confirm financial support as they transition back to pre-Covid activities once Government messaging in respect of travel changes and restrictions ease.

#### 3. Outline of proposals

Applications for funding have been made by community transport operators for the work streams detailed below.

Approval by the Committee is sought for the following funding applications;

##### 3.1 *Coalfield Community Transport (CCT)*

Funding applications have been received from CCT in respect of support for their core transport activities, and specific services, the Cumnock/Sorn Connector Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) service.

In respect of CCT's core transport activity, funding of up to £50,000 is sought towards their 2021/22 running costs (including driver costs, training costs, vehicle insurance, vehicle maintenance and fuel) to allow them to continue providing their services at an affordable cost. CCT provides accessible, affordable transport for socially or economically disadvantaged groups, voluntary groups and third sector organisations in East Ayrshire.

In respect of the Cumnock Connector DRT service, this service was extended to cover the village of Sorn during 2018, and accordingly funding of up to £32,291 is sought to allow the continuation of this service for the year 2021/22. It is noted that costs for this service have reduced compared with previous years following the introduction of an electric minibus, previously part funded by SPT and Scottish Power's Green Energy Fund.

Total amount sought: up to £82,291.

### 3.2 *Community Transport Glasgow (CTG)*

Funding applications have been received from CTG in respect of support for their core transport activities, and specific services including the CB2 registered local bus service, special needs club transport and children's Playscheme transport. Club and Playscheme transport delivered by CTG, are arranged by SPT on behalf of Glasgow City Council (GCC).

In respect of CTG's core transport activity, funding of up to £120,000 is sought towards their 2021/22 running costs (including driver costs, training costs, vehicle insurance, vehicle maintenance and fuel) to allow them to continue providing their services at an affordable cost. Such activities include providing training to volunteers, voluntary groups and staff in relation to driving, a number of transport solutions; including group transport to third sector organisations, Healthy Journeys Volunteer Car Scheme, lunch clubs and exercise classes for older adults.

Funding of up to £58,261 is sought towards the 2021/22 running costs of local bus service CB2. The CB2 community bus service operates in Drumchapel between Antonine Road, Drumchapel Shopping Centre and Peel Glen Road – filling a gap in the local bus network and providing a key interchange link to mainstream bus services.

Funding of up to £95,000 is sought this year specifically for replacement of the minibus used on the CB2 service. This vehicle is life expired and as a result is becoming increasingly unreliable. This funding would allow replacement vehicle with a new low floor Euro 6 diesel minibus.

CTG also seeks grant funding specifically for their East Dunbartonshire CT project, up to £25,000 is sought towards their 2021/22 running costs (including driver & training costs, vehicle running costs, maintenance fuel). Such activities include providing training to volunteers, voluntary groups and staff in relation to transport solutions for this projects group transport, 'Shoppa Hoppa' and day trip activities.

In addition to the above, full funding for club and Playscheme transport is provided from Glasgow City Council to SPT. From this allocation, funding is sought by CTG for up to £217,000 for club transport, providing transport to over 20 clubs in Glasgow including those with special needs, the elderly and other vulnerable groups. A further amount of up to £15,000 is sought by CTG from this allocation for Playscheme transport, providing

transport for children attending activity clubs across Glasgow during the key school holiday periods. These amounts are to support the running costs of these activities. As we emerge from lockdown these services are likely to restart, to the benefit of the user groups who have not been able to participate in these activities due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

Total amount sought: up to £530,261.

### 3.3 North Area Transport Association (NATA)

Funding applications have been received from NATA in respect of support for their core transport activities and specific services including the CB1 and CB4 registered local bus services, special needs club transport and children's Playscheme transport. Club and Playscheme transport delivered by NATA are arranged by SPT on behalf of Glasgow City Council.

In respect of NATA's core transport activity, funding of up to £20,000 is sought towards their 2021/22 running costs (including driver costs, training costs, vehicle insurance, vehicle maintenance and fuel) to allow them to continue providing their services at an affordable cost. Such activities include providing training to volunteers, voluntary groups and staff in relation to driving, a number of transport solutions; including group transport to third sector organisations.

In respect of the CB1 and CB4 local bus services, funding of up to £59,444 is sought towards the 2021/22 running costs of these services. The CB1 community bus service operates from Glasgow city centre to Townhead and Drygate. By way of background information, in 2018 SPT assisted NATA to upgrade the vehicle used on this service to meet the current terms of the Glasgow Low Emission Zone.

The CB4 service operates between Glasgow city centre and Sighthill. Both this and service CB1 fill gaps in the local bus network and provide key interchange links to mainstream bus services.

NATA have also applied this year for funding of up to £95,000 for replacement of the vehicle on the CB4 service. This vehicle is required in order to meet the terms of the Glasgow Low Emission Zone. The provisions of this have gradually increased in stringency for bus operations. The next tranche of this is expected to apply to 80% of all journeys to, from and within the zone, from 31 December 2021. Members will recall that SPT funded a vehicle in 2018<sup>1</sup> in order to ensure that the CB1 service was compliant with the terms of the LEZ at that time. That service is also operated by NATA. By granting funding for a vehicle will ensure that both local bus services operated by NATA are fully compliant with the Glasgow Low Emission Zone.

In addition to the above, full funding for Club and Playscheme transport is provided from Glasgow City Council to SPT. From this allocation funding is sought for up to £47,000 for club transport, providing transport to over 20 clubs in Glasgow including those with special needs, the elderly and other vulnerable groups. A further amount of up to £7,500 is sought by NATA from this allocation for Playscheme transport, providing transport for children attending activity clubs across Glasgow, during the key school holiday periods. As we emerge from lockdown these services are likely to restart, to the benefit of the user groups who have not been able to participate in these activities since the start of the pandemic.

Total amount sought: up to £228,944.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.spt.co.uk/documents/latest/Ops091118\\_agenda10.pdf](http://www.spt.co.uk/documents/latest/Ops091118_agenda10.pdf)

### 3.4 *South Ayrshire Community Transport (SACT)*

SACT provides accessible, affordable transport for socially or economically disadvantaged groups, voluntary groups and third sector organisations in South Ayrshire. A funding application for up to £32,500 has been received from SACT in respect of core funding support for the organisation's Community Transport Activities during 2021/22.

In addition, bus service CB8, has been operated by SACT since August 2017. This service connects the rural community of Barr with Girvan, providing a key link for shopping, healthcare and other amenities offered in Girvan, and interchange with mainstream public transport services.

A funding application has been received from SACT for up to £15,000 in order to allow the continuation of this service.

During 2019, agreement was reached with SACT to operate a MyBus Rural DRT service on behalf of SPT, service R700, together with an additional (fourth) day per week of operation on service CB8. An application for up to £53,406 has been received in order to allow the continuation of these services during 2021/22.

Total amount sought: up to £100,906.

The Committee is asked to note the following funding applications which have been granted under delegated powers:

### 3.5 *Ardgowan Hospice*

A funding application for up to £25,000 has been received from Ardgowan Hospice in respect of support for the organisation's volunteer car scheme, which provides transport to hospitals in the NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde area for cancer treatment and out-patient hospice attendances, for residents in the Inverclyde area. The funding will be used to support vehicle running costs (fuel, insurance, maintenance etc.) and volunteer expenses.

Total amount awarded under delegated powers: up to £25,000.

### 3.6 *Blantyre Volunteer Group (BVG)*

A funding application for up to £25,000 has been received from BVL, in order to support the organisation's provision of safe, accessible community transport services for groups and individuals.

The funding will assist with the running costs of their vehicles and volunteers so that they can continue to provide group transport to the local community of Blantyre and the surrounding area during 2021/22.

Total amount awarded under delegated powers: up to £25,000.

### 3.7 *Community Central Halls (CCH)*

An application for up to £25,000 has been made by CCH for funding to support their expanding Community Transport service, which operates within the most deprived communities of northwest Glasgow. This will allow them to continue to provide their transport service to all ages, abilities and ethnicities in these areas during 2021/22.

Full funding for club and Playscheme transport is provided from Glasgow City Council to SPT. From this allocation, up to £7,500 is requested by CCH for the delivery of

Playscheme transport, providing transport for children attending activity clubs across Glasgow, during key school holiday periods. Budget for Playscheme transport is provided by GCC and is recharged accordingly. As we emerge from lockdown it is likely that these services will restart, following their cessation due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

Total amount awarded under delegated powers: up to £32,500.

### 3.8 *Community Transport East Renfrewshire (CTER)*

A funding application for up to £25,000 has been received from CTER, which operates group transport to local voluntary and community groups, shopping trips etc for the elderly and disabled, a volunteer car scheme which provides transport of patients to GP, clinic and hospital appointments, principally in the East Renfrewshire Council area. The funding will be used to support vehicle running costs (fuel, insurance, maintenance etc.) and staff-related costs during 2021/22.

Total amount awarded under delegated powers: up to £25,000.

### 3.9 *East Kilbride Community Transport (EKCT)*

A funding application for up to £15,000 has been received from East Kilbride Community Transport, in order to support the organisation's provision of safe, accessible community transport services for groups and individuals, in East Kilbride and in other parts of South Lanarkshire.

The funding will assist with the vehicle running costs, staff wages and volunteer expenses in order to cover the services the organisation provides during 2021/22.

Total amount awarded under delegated powers: up to £15,000.

### 3.10 *Ferguslie Park Housing Association (FPHA)*

A new application for funding has been received from the New Tannahill Centre (NTC), part of Ferguslie Park Housing Association. Partnering with an experienced Community Transport operator, Community Transport Glasgow, during the Covid period, transport activities have been undertaken to support the local community, including food deliveries and after-school care. NTC are seeking to launch a Community Transport project, supporting the above activities and transport to a lunch club, reducing loneliness and social isolation within the community's elderly population.

Total amount awarded under delegated powers: up to £10,000, subject to match funding being secured.

### 3.11 *Getting Better Together (GBT)*

A funding application for up to £40,000 has been received from GBT in respect of core funding support for the organisation's Community Transport Activities. GBT provides accessible, affordable transport for socially or economically disadvantaged groups, voluntary groups and third sector organisations in North Lanarkshire. The funding will support vehicle maintenance, staff & training costs.

Total amount awarded under delegated powers: up to £40,000.

### 3.12 *Glenboig Development Trust (GDT)*

A funding application for up to £25,000 has been received from GDT. Glenboig Development Trust's Community Transport service provides transport to a wide variety of groups, nurseries, social work, children & youth groups, elderly & disabled groups,

uniformed organisations and other third sector organisations. In addition, shopping trips are operated from villages in the Glenboig area of North Lanarkshire where there is limited access to shops & public transport for local residents. The funding will be used to support the running costs of the transport service.

Total amount awarded under delegated powers: up to £25,000.

### *3.13 Larkhall District Volunteer Group (LDVG)*

A funding application for up to £48,151 has been received from LDVG. LDVG's Community Transport service provides services to various community groups and an access to education service for the children of the travelling community. In addition, a volunteer car scheme for access to medical appointments will be launched during 2019, and the organisation is seeking to continue a pilot scheme of a shopping bus service for a particular deprived area of Larkhall. The funding will be used to support the running costs of the transport service during 2021/22.

Total amount awarded under delegated powers: up to £48,151.

### *3.14 Port Glasgow Volunteer Transport Group (PGVTG)*

A funding application for up to £10,000 has been received from PGVTG in respect of support for the organisation's Community Transport Activities. PGVTG provide accessible, affordable transport for socially or economically disadvantaged groups, voluntary groups and third sector organisations in the Inverclyde area. The funding will be used to support vehicle running costs (fuel, insurance, maintenance etc.) and staff-related costs during 2021/22.

Total amount awarded under delegated powers: up to £10,000.

### *3.15 Renfrewshire Council SOOPiR (RC SOOPiR)*

A funding application for up to £8,000 has been received from Renfrewshire Council's 'SOOPiR' (Strengthening Opportunities for Older Adults in Renfrewshire) bus project. This project was launched in late March 2019 project and provides transport for older people and community groups in Renfrewshire to provide activities that will improve the lives of socially isolated people who are unable to access public transport due to their mobility. These consist of outings to leisure facilities or other outings that improve the users' quality of life, reduce loneliness, increase social interaction, increase physical activity, and promote their wellbeing. The funding will be used to support the running costs of the service during 2021/22.

Total amount awarded under delegated powers: up to £8,000.

### *3.16 Rural Development Trust (RDT)*

A funding application has been made by the Rural Development Trust for core funding of up to £40,000 in respect for support for their Community Transport Activities. This will allow them to support the running costs (vehicle and staff costs) of a range of community transport services, which includes group transport and transport to doctors' surgeries for rural residents.

RDT have also applied for an additional £8,500 for a project to promote low carbon travel. This would be match funding to accompany applications being made to South Lanarkshire Council's Renewable Energy Fund, and to Transport Scotland's Smarter Choices Smarter Places scheme.

The aims of the project are to;

- (a) Review previous travel data, re-engage communities and gather data on current sustainable travel behaviour;
- (b) Develop digital and physical packages of information, events and training that meet community needs; and
- (c) Determine feasible and costed changes that will support increased sustainable travel behaviour.

Award for this project subject to due process, including provision of full business case by RDT

Total amount awarded under delegated powers: up to £48,500.

### 3.17 South West Community Transport (SWCT)

An application has been made from SWCT for core funding of up to £30,560 for their Community Transport Activities for 2021/22. This will allow them to support the running costs (vehicle and staff costs) of the organisation's group transport and volunteer escort/car scheme for health appointments.

Full funding for club and Playscheme transport is provided from Glasgow City Council to SPT. From this allocation, up to £8,000 is requested by SWCT, for the delivery of Playscheme transport, providing transport for children attending activity clubs across Glasgow, during key school holiday periods. Budget for Playscheme transport is provided by GCC and is recharged accordingly.

Total amount awarded under delegated powers: up to £38,560.

### 3.18 West Dunbartonshire Council (WDC)

West Dunbartonshire Council have for some time been seeking to establish Community Transport in their area, and have formed a Community Transport Action Group (CTAG) accordingly. In 2020, agreement had been reached to partner with South West Community Transport (SWCT) to establish a pilot project. SPT agreed to fund this project but regrettably it was unable to proceed due to the onset of Covid.

WDC and SWCT are now ready to restart this project as we emerge from lockdown. It will consist of a medical appointments service to transport those who are unable to use mainstream public transport to medical appointments at medical surgeries, the new Clydebank Health Centre on its completion, and other hospitals as appropriate. The transport would either consist of a volunteer car service or a minibus supplied by SWCT.

The intention is that SWCT will deliver the pilot project, offering members of the CTAG to learn experientially, with a view to future establishment of a local Community Transport operation within the WDC area. Accordingly, a funding application for up to £16,020 has been received to allow this pilot project to proceed. The project is scalable, depending on the service start date.

Total amount awarded under delegated powers: Up to £16,020.

## 4. Conclusions

Community Transport provides a key role in improving access to goods, services and facilities for communities in the west of Scotland and in particular for elderly, disadvantaged and vulnerable groups. In addition to their core group transport activities, and in furtherance of

SPT's aims and objectives, CT providers also provide specific community services filling gaps in mainstream transport network provision.

If approved and combined with GCC and other sources of funding, then this represents over £1.3m investment in the Community Transport sector in the West of Scotland.

## 5. Committee action

The Committee is recommended to approve the following items for the current financial year of 2021/22:

- Grant funding of up to £82,291 to Coalfields Community Transport;
- Grant funding of up to £530,261 to Community Transport Glasgow;
- Grant funding of up to £228,944 North Area Transport Association; and
- Grant funding of up to £100,906 to South Ayrshire Community Transport.

In addition, the Committee is asked to note the following awards made under delegated powers:

- Grant funding of up to £25,000 to Ardgowan Hospice;
- Grant funding of up to £25,000 to Blantyre Volunteer Ltd;
- Grant funding of up to £32,500 to Community Central Halls;
- Grant funding of up to £25,000 to Community Transport East Renfrewshire;
- Grant funding of up to £15,000 to East Kilbride Community Transport;
- Grant funding of up to £10,000 to Ferguslie Park Housing Association Ltd;
- Grant funding of up to £40,000 to Getting Better Together;
- Grant funding of up to £25,000 to Glenboig Development Trust;
- Grant funding of up to £48,150 to Larkhall & District Volunteer Group;
- Grant funding of up to £10,000 to Port Glasgow Voluntary Trans-Port Group;
- Grant funding of up to £8,000 to Renfrewshire Council;
- Grant funding of up to £48,500 to the Rural Development Trust;
- Grant funding of up to £38,560 to South West Community Transport; and
- Grant funding of up to £16,020 to West Dunbartonshire Council;

All grants are subject to appropriate governance checks being carried out.

## 6. Consequences

Policy consequences

*In line with Regional Transport Strategy*



Legal consequences	<i>Any funding approved will be awarded subject to SPT's Grant Funding terms and conditions.</i>
Financial consequences	<i>The funding requirements have been considered within the 2021/22 Enhanced DRT/Community Transport budget for these applications. Additionally, identified Glasgow Club and Playscheme transport of up to £302k will be recharged in full to Glasgow City Council.</i>  <i>The grant funding to CTG and NATA for the replacement of vehicles will be accommodated within the 2021/22 capital budget, under project 10052 "Purchase of Operational Vehicles".</i>
Personnel consequences	<i>None directly.</i>
Equalities consequences	<i>Seeks to reduce the incidences of social exclusion by supporting community transport projects which complement the activities of SPT and other transport providers.</i>
Risk consequences	<i>None directly.</i>

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**Title** **Assistant Chief Executive**

**Name** Gordon MacLennan  
**Title** **Chief Executive**

For further information, please contact *Gordon Dickson, Head of Bus Strategy & Delivery* on 0141 333 3407.

## Appendix 1: 2021/22 Community Transport Funding Applications

Approval by the Operations Committee is sought for the following funding applications

Organisation	Workstream	SPT Funding	GCC Funding	Other Funding	Total Funding
CCT	Core Funding	£ 50,000.00			
CCT	Cumnock Connector DRT & Sorn Extension	£ 32,291.00			
<b>Total grant sought</b>		<b>£ 82,291.00</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ 82,291.00</b>

CTG	Core Funding	£ 120,000.00			
CTG	CB2 Service	£ 58,261.00			
CTG	Glasgow Club Runs		£ 217,000.00		
CTG	Playscheme Transport		£ 15,000.00		
CTG	CT East Dunbartonshire	£ 25,000.00			
CTG	Vehicle Replacement for CB2 service			£ 95,000.00	
<b>Total grant sought</b>		<b>£ 203,261.00</b>	<b>£ 232,000.00</b>	<b>£ 95,000.00</b>	<b>£ 530,261.00</b>

NATA	Core Funding	£ 20,000.00			
NATA	CB1 & CB4 services	£ 59,444.00			
NATA	Vehicle Funding			£ 95,000.00	
NATA	Glasgow Club Runs		£ 47,000.00		
NATA	Playscheme Transport		£ 7,500.00		
<b>Total grant sought</b>		<b>£ 79,444.00</b>	<b>£ 54,500.00</b>	<b>£ 95,000.00</b>	<b>£ 228,944.00</b>

SACT	Core Funding	£ 32,500.00			
SACT	CB8 Service	£ 15,000.00			
SACT	DRT	£ 53,406.00			
<b>Total grant sought</b>		<b>£ 100,906.00</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ 100,906.00</b>

The Operations Committee is asked to note the following applications which have been granted under the Scheme of Delegation;

Organisation	Workstream	SPT Funding	GCC Funding	Other Funding	Total Funding
Ardgowan Hospice	Core Funding	£ 25,000.00			
<b>Total grant sought</b>		<b>£ 25,000.00</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ 25,000.00</b>

BVG	Core Funding	£ 25,000.00			
<b>Total grant sought</b>		<b>£ 25,000.00</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ 25,000.00</b>

CCH	Core Funding	£ 25,000.00			
CCH	Playscheme Transport		£ 7,500.00		
<b>Total grant sought</b>		<b>£ 25,000.00</b>	<b>£ 7,500.00</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ 32,500.00</b>

CTER	Core Funding	£ 25,000.00			
<b>Total grant sought</b>		<b>£ 25,000.00</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ 25,000.00</b>

EKCT	Core Funding	£ 15,000.00			
<b>Total grant sought</b>		<b>£ 15,000.00</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ 15,000.00</b>

FPHA	Core Funding	£ 10,000.00			
<b>Total grant sought</b>		<b>£ 10,000.00</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ 10,000.00</b>

GBT	Core Funding	£ 40,000.00			
<b>Total grant sought</b>		<b>£ 40,000.00</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ 40,000.00</b>

GDT	Core Funding	£ 25,000.00			
<b>Total grant sought</b>		<b>£ 25,000.00</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ 25,000.00</b>

LDVG	Core Funding	£ 48,151.00			
<b>Total grant sought</b>		<b>£ 48,151.00</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ 48,151.00</b>
PGVTG	Core Funding	£ 10,000.00			
<b>Total grant sought</b>		<b>£ 10,000.00</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ 10,000.00</b>
RC SOOPiR	Core Funding	£ 8,000.00			
<b>Total grant sought</b>		<b>£ 8,000.00</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ 8,000.00</b>
RDT	Core Funding	£ 40,000.00			
RDT	Promoting Low Carbon Travel	£ 8,500.00			
<b>Total grant sought</b>		<b>£ 48,500.00</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ 48,500.00</b>
SWCT	Core Funding	£ 30,560.00			
SWCT	Playscheme Transport		£ 8,000.00		
<b>Total grant sought</b>		<b>£ 30,560.00</b>	<b>£ 8,000.00</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ 38,560.00</b>
WDC	Core Funding	£ 16,020.00			
<b>Total grant sought</b>		<b>£ 16,020.00</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ 16,020.00</b>
<b>Grand Totals Granted to Date</b>		<b>£ 817,133.00</b>	<b>£ 302,000.00</b>	<b>£ 190,000.00</b>	<b>£ 1,309,133.00</b>
		<b>(SPT)</b>	<b>(GCC)</b>	<b>(Other)</b>	<b>(Combined)</b>