



Community Transport projects : grant funding

Committee Operations

Date of meeting 04 November 2016

Date of report 27 October 2016

Report by Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

1. **Object of report**

To recommend the Committee notes the update on those community transport projects which have been awarded grant funding by SPT in 2016/2017.

This report affects Glasgow City, Inverclyde, North Ayrshire, North Lanarkshire, South Ayrshire and South Lanarkshire Council areas.

2. **Background**

Since April 2008, SPT has been managing funding for community transport projects on behalf of constituent authorities.

This report contains details of those community transport projects which have been grant funded during the period 1 April 2016 to 30 September 2016.

3. **Summary of projects**

A brief summary of community transport projects which have been awarded grant funding follows:

(a) Access to Employment Ayr (approved under Scheme of Delegation 12 August 2016)

Established in 1994, Access to Employment Ayr (A2E) exists to support people in gaining and retaining employment opportunities. Services provided include National Training Programmes and Vocational Training as well as childcare for families accessing training, education and/or employment.

Access to Employment sought a funding contribution of £30,557 towards its South Ayrshire Community Transport project which was formally launched in April 2016 and which aims to provide affordable and accessible transport to local communities and has over 60 groups currently registered with the project.

Services provided include group transport and an “Out and About” excursion club for elderly and disabled residents in South Ayrshire.

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The sum of £30,557 was granted in financial year 2016/2017.

(b) British Red Cross Society (approved under Scheme of Delegation 13 June 2016)

The British Red Cross Society (BRCS) currently provides a Community DRT/MyBus service on Arran as well as a transport/escort service in North Ayrshire and Arran offering transport for vulnerable groups such as the elderly and infirm for both routine and long-term patient treatments.

In 2015/2016 a total of 5,550 passenger journeys were undertaken by both projects; 4,434 MyBus journeys and 1,116 volunteer project journeys.

The BRCS sought funding of £25,448 to allow the continuation of its Arran Community DRT/MyBus service for a further 6 months from 01 April 2016 until 30 September 2016.

The sum of £25,448 was granted in financial year 2016/2017.

It also sought funding of £9,997 towards its transport/escort service in North Ayrshire and Arran to allow the continuation of this service from 01 April 2016 until 30 June 2016.

The sum of £9,997 was granted in financial year 2016/2017.

(c) Community Transport Glasgow (approved under Scheme of Delegation 13 June 2016)

Established in 2006, Community Transport Glasgow (CTG) aims to promote and support the delivery of high quality, reliable and accessible transport to the communities of Glasgow and the surrounding areas.

CTG is a key player in the community transport sector. Its principal area of activity is in the delivery of a range of transport services in partnership with other organisations. These include club transport for a number of organisations supporting the elderly and disabled (on behalf of Glasgow City Council). In addition to this core function, it acts as an umbrella organisation offering support to other groups in the Glasgow area and offers a vehicle maintenance facility to the sector at its premises in Shettleston, where it also provides Minibus Driver Awareness Training (MiDAS).

CTG sought funding of £47,684 towards its community transport scheme in Drumchapel (CB2).

Averages of 600 passenger journeys per week are currently undertaken on this scheme and funding was sought to continue the service for a further year from 01 April 2016 until 31 March 2017.

Members will be aware from previous reports that this service has been registered as a Community Bus Service, thereby allowing the charging of fares and the

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revenue derived from this is used to offset the financial support of the service by SPT.

It was agreed that funding of £47,684 be awarded for financial year 2016/2017.

(d) Getting Better Together (approved under Scheme of Delegation 04 August 2016)

Getting Better Together (GBT) is a community-centred health initiative established in 2000. The aim of the organisation is to promote health and wellbeing of local residents of Shotts and the surrounding areas through the provision of a range of community health services.

As part of SPT's Public Social Partnership GBT have been delivering a community bus service pilot that provides transport links to employment sites at Newhouse, Eurocentral and surrounding areas. The total number of passengers to date is 4,315, for the period August 2015 – August 2016.

GBT sought funding of £23,000 to continue to deliver its pilot DRT project in North Lanarkshire (CB5). This pilot is an important component of SPT's PSP project and is designed to respond to identified service gaps in the Greater Shotts area.

It was agreed that £23,000 be awarded from the Enhanced DRT/Community Transport budget for financial year 2016/2017.

(e) Glasgow Hospital Evening Visitor Service (approved under Scheme of Delegation 05 July 2016)

The Hospital Evening Visitor Service (HEVS), established in 2006, provided a bespoke transport service to enable visiting at acute hospital sites in Glasgow.

The service was delivered and managed by Community Transport Glasgow in partnership with one member operator in Glasgow. SPT had been providing the booking and scheduling for this service since its inception in 2006 and over the last few years the number of people using the service had steadily declined.

At the end of March 2016 the total number of passengers was 1,212 for the year which equated to an average of 23 passengers per week. This reduced demand meant that the service was no longer sustainable or financially justifiable and it was decided by the stakeholders that the service be withdrawn at the end of June 2016.

The total cost of the service from 01 April 2016 to 30 June 2016 was £22,390 and a funding contribution of £10,257 was granted towards delivery of the service during this period with NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde and Glasgow Community Planning Partnership providing the remaining funding.

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**(f) NATA (North Area Transport Association)
(approved under Scheme of Delegation 13 June 2016)**

North Area Transport Association (NATA) aims to serve socially excluded groups in North Glasgow by providing accessible and affordable community transport which links effectively with local service providers.

NATA sought funding to continue their community transport schemes in Townhead (CB1) and Sighthill/Trongate (CB4) from 01 April 2016 until 23 September 2016.

Averages of 352 passenger journeys per week are currently undertaken on the Townhead scheme and an average of 113 passenger journeys per week on the Sighthill/Trongate scheme. Members will be aware from previous reports that these services have been registered as Community Bus Services, thereby allowing the charging of fares and the revenue derived from these is used to offset the financial support of these services by SPT.

It was agreed that total funding of £29,721 be awarded to NATA in financial year 2016/2017, with £14,860 allocated towards each scheme.

**(g) Port Glasgow Voluntary Trans-Port Group
(approved under Scheme of Delegation 05 July 2016)**

Established in 1982, Port Glasgow Voluntary Trans-Port Group aims to provide sustainable, affordable transport solutions for residents, voluntary and community organisations within Inverclyde.

They currently provide community transport services to over 30 community groups.

Port Glasgow Voluntary Trans-Port Group sought assistance in the sum of £10,000 from SPT to allow it to continue to provide its group transport and contribute towards vehicle maintenance and driver costs.

The sum of £10,000 was granted in financial year 2016/2017.

**(h) South West Community Transport
(approved under Scheme of Delegation 15 April 2016)**

Established in 2009, South West Community Transport's main purpose is to provide sustainable, affordable transport solutions for residents, voluntary and community organisations and agencies within the South West areas of Glasgow.

They currently provide community transport services to over 100 community groups and last year they completed over 15,000 journeys. The volunteer escort/car scheme which they operate transports elderly and disabled to health care appointments and they have a pool of 15 trained volunteer drivers who assisted 264 people to attend 960 health appointments in the South/East of the city during 2015/16. This scheme has now been extended to cover the North West of Glasgow.

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South West CT sought assistance in the sum of £26,310 from SPT towards its group transport and volunteer escort/car scheme for health appointments.

The sum of £26,310 was granted in financial year 2016/2017.

**(i) The Rural Development Trust Ltd
(approved under Scheme of Delegation 21 April 2016, 04 August 2016 and 12 August 2016)**

The Rural Development Trust Ltd (RDT) provides community transport services to over 350 community groups within South Lanarkshire. It currently operates over 100,000 passenger journeys per year, mainly taking community groups on trips and outings.

Aside from transport provision, the RDT provides low cost maintenance and repairs to a number of voluntary and community organisations in South Lanarkshire who operate their own minibuses.

It is a member of the West of Scotland Community Transport Network and is involved in SPT's Community Transport Public Social Partnership (PSP).

The RDT submitted a one-year funding application in which it sought funding of £35,000 to continue to deliver its community transport services in South Lanarkshire.

It was agreed that £35,000 be awarded from the Enhanced DRT/Community Transport budget for financial year 2016/2017.

As well as seeking funding for its core CT services the RDT subsequently sought further funding of £33,665 to allow the continuation of its community transport scheme, which provides links from Crawford and Abington to Lesmahagow from 01 April 2016 until 25 November 2016.

4. Committee action

The Committee is recommended to note these community transport projects which have been awarded grant funding from period 1 April 2016 to 30 September 2016 as detailed in the report.

5. Consequences

Policy consequences: *In line with Regional Transport Strategy.*

Legal consequences: *All awards will be subject to SPT's Grant Funding terms and conditions.*

Financial consequences: *There is funding within the 2016/17 Enhanced DRT Budget for these projects.*

Personnel consequences: *None.*

Equalities consequences: *Seeks to reduce the incidence of social exclusion by supporting community transport projects which*

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complement the activities of SPT and other transport providers.

Risk consequences: *None.*

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