



Applications for grant funding: Community Transport

Date of meeting 18 March 2022

Date of report 24 February 2022

Report by Chief Executive

1. Object of report

To recommend the Partnership approve 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.

During the Covid pandemic Community Transport providers 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. As these groups return to their more normal activities, recognition has been given to the lifeline services these groups provide and the financial support SPT has provided during the pandemic has been of great assistance to them as they revert to their pre-Covid activities.

3. Outline of proposals

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

Approval by the Partnership 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 a specific service, 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 2022/23 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 2022/23. 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 £110,000 is sought towards their 2022/23 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, and other 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 2022/23 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.

CTG also seeks grant funding specifically for their East Dunbartonshire CT project, of up to £25,000 towards their 2022/23 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 the club transport allocation, funding is sought by CTG for up to £217,000 to provide transport for 19 clubs in Glasgow including those with special needs, the elderly and other vulnerable groups. Up to £15,000 is sought by CTG from the Playscheme allocation to provide 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 £425,261.

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 2022/23 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, and other 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 2022/23 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.

In addition to the above, full funding for Club and Playscheme transport is provided from Glasgow City Council to SPT. From the club transport allocation, funding is sought for up to £47,000 for club transport, to provide transport for 19 clubs in Glasgow including those with special needs, the elderly and other vulnerable groups. Up to £7,500 is sought by NATA from the Playscheme allocation, to provide 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 £133,944.

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 £33,800 has been received from SACT in respect of core funding support for the organisation's Community Transport Activities during 2022/23.

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 £15,600 in order to allow the continuation of the three day per week operation of the CB8 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 which was included as part of that package. An application for up to £54,542 has been received in order to allow the continuation of these services during 2022/23.

A separate application for up to £100,000 capital funding has been made by SACT, in order to purchase a new low floor accessible minibus, specifically for use on the CB8 service, to replace the existing vehicle which is now some six years old. This will improve the reliability on this geographically arduous service, and allow the existing low floor vehicle to be deployed on other work with which SACT is involved.

Total amount sought: up to £203,942.

3.5 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 2022/23. 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. 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.

A separate application for up to £40,000 capital funding has also been made by SWCT, specifically to replace a vehicle within their fleet with a new minibus with wheelchair accessible tail-lift. SWCT's fleet is ageing, with consequent effect on reliability, in addition to non-compliance with the Glasgow Low Emission Zone.

Total amount awarded under delegated powers: up to £78,560.

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

3.6 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.

3.7 Blantyre Volunteer Group (BVG)

A funding application for up to £25,000 has been received from BVG, 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 2022/23.

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

3.8 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 2022/23.

Full funding for club and Playscheme transport is provided from Glasgow City Council to SPT. 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. 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.

3.9 Community Transport East Renfrewshire (CTER)

A funding application for up to £20,000 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 2022/23.

Total amount awarded under delegated powers: up to £20,000.

3.10 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 2022/23.

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

3.11 Getting Better Together (GBT)

A funding application for up to £36,000 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 £36,000.

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 £48,000 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 2022/23.

Total amount awarded under delegated powers: up to £48,000.

3.14 New Tannahill Centre (NTC)

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.

3.15 Port Glasgow Voluntary Trans-Port 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 2022/23.

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

3.16 Renfrewshire Council SOOPiR Bus (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 and provides transport for older people and community groups in Renfrewshire to access activities that will improve the lives of socially isolated people who are unable to use public transport due to their limited 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 2022/23.

Total amount awarded under delegated powers: up to £6,000.

3.17 Rural Development Trust

A funding application has been made by the Rural Development Trust for core funding of up to £36,000 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 healthcare surgeries for rural residents.

Total amount awarded under delegated powers: up to £36,000.

3.18 West Dunbartonshire Council

West Dunbartonshire Council has 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 the pandemic. It will consist of transport for those who are unable to use mainstream public transport to medical appointments, the new Clydebanks 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 the opportunity 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 £25,000 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 £25,000.

4. Conclusion

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 £1.2m investment in the Community Transport Sector in the West of Scotland.

5. Partnership action

The Partnership is recommended to approve the following items for financial year of 2022/23:

- Grant funding of up to £82,291 to Coalfield Community Transport;
- Grant funding of up to £425,261 to Community Transport Glasgow;
- Grant funding of up to £133,944 to North Area Transport Association;
- Grant funding of up to £203,942 to South Ayrshire Community Transport; and
- Grant funding of up to £78,560 to South West Community Transport.

In addition, the Partnership 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 Group;
- Grant funding of up to £32,500 to Community Central Halls;
- Grant funding of up to £20,000 to Community Transport East Renfrewshire;
- Grant funding of up to £15,000 to East Kilbride Community Transport;
- Grant funding of up to £36,000 to Getting Better Together;
- Grant funding of up to £25,000 to Glenboig Development Trust;
- Grant funding of up to £48,000 to Larkhall District Volunteer Group;

- Grant funding of up to £10,000 to New Tannahill Centre;
- Grant funding of up to £10,000 to Port Glasgow Voluntary Trans-Port Group;
- Grant funding of up to £6,000 to Renfrewshire Council SOOPiR Bus;
- Grant funding of up to £36,000 to Rural Development Trust; and
- Grant funding of up to £25,000 to West Dunbartonshire Council.

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

6. Consequences

Policy consequences	<i>In line with Regional Transport Strategy.</i>
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 2022/23 Enhanced DRT/Community Transport budgets 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 SACT and SWCT for the replacement of vehicles will be accommodated within the 2022/23 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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