

Applications for grant funding: Community Transport

Committee Chair's Committee

Date of meeting 1 May 2020

Date of report 24 April 2020

Report by Assistant Chief Executive

1. Object of report

To recommend the Chair's 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 17 Community Transport operators located across Strathclyde.

In support of the Community Transport Sector and other industries, Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN) in 2020 are continuing to grant fund Community Transport Operators as part of their Green Economy Fund (GEF), launched in 2019. The fund is for use on the decarbonisation of heating and transport. A specific focus on Lanarkshire is being made in the 2020 round of funding, in addition to other areas. Full details on the SPEN GEF can be found at:

https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/green_economy_fund.aspx

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. 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. This will maximise the opportunity of these groups being in a position to restart services in future.

3. Outline of proposals

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

Approval by Chair's Committee is sought for the following funding applications

3.1 *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 2020/21 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 £57,631 is sought towards the 2020/21 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 project, up to £25,000 is sought towards their 2020/21 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.

CTG additionally seeks up to £75,000 funding from SPT in order to match-fund an application to the Social Investment Fund, to continue the upgrading of CTG's fleet to electric vehicles. This funding will contribute to an investment in four electric minibuses as part of this project, following funding to allow the introduction of electric vehicles secured via SPEN in 2019.

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.

Total amount sought: up to £509,631.

3.2 *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 2020/21 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 2020/21 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 upgrade the vehicle used on this service to meet the current terms of the Glasgow Low Emission Zone¹.

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 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.

Total amount sought: up to £133,944.

3.3 *Coalfields 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 2020/21 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 £35,427 is sought to allow the continuation of this service for the year 2020/21.

Total amount sought: up to £85,427.

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 2020/21.

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 £10,000 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 day per week of

¹ <https://busesmag.keypublishing.com/2019/03/26/spt-grant-helps-glasgow-community-transport-association-comply-with-lez/>

operation on service CB8. An application for up to £53,406 has been received in order to allow the continuation of these services during 2020/21.

Total amount awarded under delegated powers: up to £95,906.

3.5 *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.

GBT have also submitted an application for £10,000, for match funding towards an electric vehicle project, for which c£400k in funding has been applied for by GBT to Scottish Power Energy Networks' Green Economy Fund.

Total amount sought: up to £50,000.

3.6 *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.

A match-funding application has been received from RDT to accompany a grant from SPEN's Green Economy Fund. A similar application was made to and granted by SPT in 2019, however owing to circumstances could not be claimed within the financial year. Accordingly, it is sought to re-phase this project into 2020/21. Up to £42,000 is sought in order to assist with the purchase of an electric minibus, associated charging infrastructure and staff training. SPEN have agreed to contribute £343,000 to this project, accompanied by other funding by LEADER and Renewable Energy Fund of towards this project.

Total amount sought: Up to £82,000.

The Chair's Committee is asked to note the following funding applications which have been granted under the Scheme of Delegation;

3.7 *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 2020/21. 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.

3.8 *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 2019/20.

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.

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

3.9 *Blantyre Volunteer Ltd (BVL)*

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 2020/21.

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

3.10 *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 2020/21.

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

3.11 *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.

3.12 *Larkhall & District Volunteer Group (LDVG)*

A funding application for up to £48,144 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 2020/21.

Total amount awarded under delegated powers: up to £48,144.

3.13 *Renfrewshire Council SOOPiR Bus*

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 project² 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 2020/21.

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

3.14 *East Kilbride Community Transport (EKCT)*

A funding application for up to £15,250 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 2020/21.

Total amount awarded under delegated powers: up to £15,250.

3.15 *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.

3.16 *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 2020/21.

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

² <https://www.paisley.org.uk/2019/03/soopir-bus-hits-the-road-to-tackle-loneliness-in-older-adults/>

3.17 *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 the short term, agreement has been reached with South West Community Transport to establish a pilot project with two elements. These are a Volunteer Car Scheme for medical appointments, and a weekly 'Shoppa Hoppa' assisted shopping trip. Both are intended at groups who would find it difficult to use public transport or even MyBus services, and it is intended to pilot these projects in the Clydebank area. 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 an indigenous Community Transport operation within the WDC area. Accordingly, a funding application for up to £18,371 has been received to allow this pilot project to proceed. The project is scalable, depending on the start date chosen.

Total amount awarded under delegated powers: Up to £18,371.

Members should be aware that further grant funding applications for community transport projects are expected during 2020/21 and will be reported to the Committee in due course.

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 SPEN funding, then this represents over £1.2m investment in the Community Transport sector in the West of Scotland.

5. Committee action

The Operations Committee is recommended to approve the following items for the current financial year of 2020/21:

- Grant funding of up to £509,631 to Community Transport Glasgow;
- Grant funding of up to £133,944 North Area Transport Association;
- Grant funding of up to £85,427 to Coalfields Community Transport;
- Grant funding of up to £95,906 to South Ayrshire Community Transport;
- Grant funding of up to £82,000 to the Rural Development Trust; and
- Grant funding of up to £50,000 to Getting Better Together;

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

- Grant funding of up to £38,560 to South West Community Transport;
- Grant funding of up to £32,500 to Community Central Halls;
- Grant funding of up to £25,000 to Blantyre Volunteer Ltd;
- Grant funding of up to £25,000 to Community Transport East Renfrewshire;
- Grant funding of up to £25,000 to Glenboig Development Trust;

- Grant funding of up to £48,144 to Larkhall & District Volunteer Group;
- Grant funding of up to £8,000 to Renfrewshire Council;
- Grant funding of up to £25,000 to Ardgowan Hospice;
- Grant funding of up to £10,000 to Port Glasgow Voluntary Trans-Port Group;
- Grant funding of up to £15,250 to East Kilbride Community Transport; and
- Grant funding of up to £18,371 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 2020/21 Enhanced DRT/Community Transport budget for these applications. Additionally, identified Glasgow Club and Playscheme transport of up to £302k is recharged in full to Glasgow City Council. Grants to GBT & RDT, in respect of match-fund applications for electric vehicles, will be drawn from the 'Purchase of Operational Vehicles' budget.</i>
Personnel consequences	<i>None.</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.</i>

Name Valerie Davidson
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.