



Community Transport projects : grant funding

Committee Operations

Date of meeting 25 August 2017

Date of report 16 August 2017

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 East Ayrshire, East Renfrewshire, Glasgow City, North Lanarkshire 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 October 2016 to 31 March 2017.

3. Summary of projects

(a) Coalfield Community Transport (approved under Scheme of Delegation 31 October 2016 and 28 November 2016)

The Coalfield Community Transport initiative aims to provide affordable and accessible transport to community and voluntary groups to enable them to participate more freely in social, recreational and community activities. Services provided include Group transport, Dayhopper Club, Awayhopper service, Wheels2Work and Early Years' service.

Coalfield CT sought funding of £15,398 to allow the continuation of its Skares & Sinclairston CT link/Cumnock DRT from 31 October 2016 until 31 March 2017. This scheme provides a timetabled link for residents in Skares and Sinclairston and also provides a DRT services for residents within Cumnock and surrounding areas. An average of 75 passenger journeys per week is currently being undertaken on this service.

The sum of £15,398 was granted in financial year 2016/2017.

Coalfield CT also sought assistance in the sum of £50,000 from SPT to allow it to continue with its current services as well as expand its range of services throughout East Ayrshire.

The sum of £50,000 was granted in financial year 2016/2017.

**(b) Community Transport East Renfrewshire
(approved under Scheme of Delegation 31 October 2016)**

Community Transport East Renfrewshire operates a volunteer car scheme which provides transport for patients within East Renfrewshire council area to various locations such as GP appointments, clinic appointments and hospital appointments through a referral process.

In 2015/2016 a total of 2,030 patients were transported which equated to a total of 4,617 journeys.

Community Transport East Renfrewshire sought assistance in the sum of £20,000 from SPT to maintain its activities.

The sum of £20,000 was granted in financial year 2016/17.

(c) Community Transport Glasgow

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.

During 2016/2017 CTG sought funding towards its community transport scheme in Drumchapel (CB2) from 01 April 2016 until 31 March 2017. Funding of £47,684 was initially awarded however as this service has been registered as a Community Bus service on-board revenue of £31,106 which was collected during this period, was utilised to offset the operating costs of the service. The total funding claimed in financial year 2016/2017 was £16,578.

**(d) Getting Better Together
(approved under Scheme of Delegation 31 January 2017)**

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.

GBT sought a funding contribution of £32,000 to allow it to continue to deliver its community transport services in North Lanarkshire and also fund the continuation of its volunteer car scheme.

In 2015, GBT had 105 group members and 200 individual members and undertook 27,776 passenger journeys.

It was agreed that £32,000 be awarded from the Enhanced DRT/Community Transport budget for financial year 2016/2017.

**(e) NATA (North Area Transport Association)
(approved under Scheme of Delegation 03 October 2016 and 20 December 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 a funding contribution of £20,000 to support its core transport running costs that allow them to provide their core activities at an affordable cost to the local communities and community organisations in Glasgow.

The sum of £20,000 was granted in financial year 2016/2017.

During 2016/17 NATA sought funding to continue their community transport schemes in Townhead (CB1) and Sighthill/Trongate (CB4) from 01 April 2016 until 31 March 2017. Funding of £60,586 was initially awarded (£30,293 per service) however as both services are registered Community bus services, on-board revenue of £23,347 which was collected during this period, was utilised to offset the operating costs of both services. The total funding claimed in financial year 2016/2017 was £37,239 (£16,251 for CB1 and £20,988 for CB4).

**(f) The Rural Development Trust Ltd
(approved under Scheme of Delegation 28 November 2016 and 19 January 2017)**

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 sought funding of £17,822 to allow the continuation of its community transport scheme from 28 November 2016 until 31 March 2017. This service provides residents in rural areas such as Crawford, Abington, Douglas and Rigside with a timetabled service which offers interchange opportunities not currently provided within the existing public transport network.

The sum of £17,822 was granted in financial year 2016/2017.

4. Committee action

The Committee is recommended to note these community transport projects which have been awarded grant funding from period 1 October 2016 to 31 March 2017 as detailed in the report.

5. Consequences

- Policy consequences: *In line with Regional Transport Strategy.*
- Legal consequences: *Terms and conditions are imposed when community transport grant funding is awarded, to ensure the funds are appropriate used.*
- Financial consequences: *All contained within the 2016/2017 budget allocation.*
- Personnel consequences: *None.*
- Equalities consequences: *Seeks to reduce the incidence of social exclusion by supporting community transport projects which complement the activities of SPT and other transport providers.*
- Risk consequences: *None.*

Eric Stewart
Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

Gordon MacLennan
Chief Executive

for further information, please contact Alex Scott, Bus Services Manager on ext 3388