

Item: 10

Development and Infrastructure Committee: 5 June 2018.

Community Transport Services.

Report by Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure.

1. Purpose of Report

To consider funding in respect of community transport services.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is invited to note:

2.1.

That, in October 2015, following a review of Community Transport, the Council agreed to continue to support provision of door-to-door community transport services for leisure and social purposes for at least the next five year period to 2021.

2.2.

The approved budget for Community Transport for 2018 to 2019, amounting to £98,500, which includes an allocation of up to £17,500 in respect of the Community Transport Grant Scheme.

2.3.

That two applications were submitted for funding from the Community Transport Grant Scheme for 2018 to 2019, with funding being awarded to the Island of Hoy Development Trust and Papa Westray Development Trust, as detailed in section 4.3 of this report.

2.4.

That Orkney Disability Forum has requested grant funding of £92,962, representing 48% of the cost to operate the Dial-a-Bus Service during 2018 to 2019.

It is recommended:

2.5.

That a grant, up to a maximum sum of £82,526, be awarded to Orkney Disability Forum, towards continued operation of the Dial-a-Bus service for leisure and social purposes during 2018 to 2019.

2.6.

That powers be delegated to the Solicitor to the Council to conclude a grant funding agreement, on the Council's standard terms and conditions, with Orkney Disability Forum, in respect of the funding referred to at paragraph 2.5 above.

3. Background

3.1.

In October 2015, following a review of community transport arrangements, the Council agreed to continue to support provision of door-to-door community transport services for leisure and social purposes for at least the next five-year period up to 2021.

3.2.

The proposal to combine Community Transport Services with Day Centre Transport has not yet progressed, as further work is required by Orkney Health and Care to establish the benefits and possible implications in respect of Day Centre Transport.

3.3.

As the Community Transport budget formed part of the cost savings measures for consideration during 2018 to 2019 financial year, the award process was delayed until the budget setting process was complete.

4. Community Transport Funding

4.1.

Following the budget setting process, the Community Transport budget remains consistent with 2017 to 2018 financial year, with an approved budget of £98,500 for 2018 to 2019. This budget includes an allocation of up to £17,500 in respect of the Community Transport Grant Scheme.

4.2.

In terms of the Community Transport Grant Scheme, community groups and trusts are invited to submit applications, with powers delegated to the Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure to determine such applications.

4.3.

For financial year 2018 to 2019, two applications were received and evaluated as eligible for funding from the Community Transport Grant Scheme.

4.3.1.

The Island of Hoy Development Trust will be awarded £13,761 as requested, which represents 25% of the cost of operating the local community bus service on the island.

4.3.2.

Papa Westray Development Trust will be awarded £1,995.50 as requested, which represents 65% of the cost of operating the out of hours boat service for special events.

4.3.3.

Both Trusts have received funding from the Community Transport Grant Scheme in previous years.

5. Dial-A-Bus Service

5.1.

Orkney Disability Forum, which operates the Dial-a-Bus service, has requested funding amounting to £92,962. The cost of operating the Dial-a-Bus service during 2018 to 2019 has been estimated at £193,200. The grant funding request represents 48% of the total project cost.

5.2.

Consistent with last financial year, it is proposed that grant funding, up to a maximum sum of £82,526, be awarded to Orkney Disability Forum, towards continuation of Dial-a-Bus door to door services, specifically for social and leisure purposes for 2018 to 2019. This funding award represents 43% of the total cost of operating the service.

5.3.

In addition to the Community Transport grant award to Orkney Disability Forum, a small grant funding award of £4,446, specifically towards the operation of the Dial-a-Bus Service, will be provided by Orkney Health and Care, as well as funding of the discretionary free concessionary trips to members, which will equate to approximately £29,000 during 2018 to 2019.

5.4.

The proposed Council funding to Dial-a-Bus during 2018/19 is outlined below:

	2018 to 2019
Community Transport Grant	£82,526
Orkney Health and Care Grant to Dial-a-Bus	£4,446
Concessionary Travel	£29,000
Total Council Funding	£115,972

6. Equalities Impact

An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken and is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

7. Links to Council Plan

The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the Council Plan strategic priorities of Connected Communities and Thriving Communities.

8. Links to Local Outcomes Improvement Plan

The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan priority of Strong Communities.

9. Financial Implications

9.1.

The funding awards to Papa Westray Development Trust, The Island of Hoy Development Trust and proposed award to Orkney Disability Forum are within the overall budget allocation of £98,500 within 2018 to 2019 financial year, outlined in the table below.

	2018 to 2019
Orkney Disability Forum	£82,526
Island of Hoy Development Trust	£13,761
Papa Westray Development Trust	£1,995.50
Total Funding	£98,282.50
Total Budget	£98,500

9.2.

The recommendation to award Orkney Disability Forum a grant up to a maximum of £82,526, in respect of the continued operation of the Dial-a-Bus service for social and leisure purposes, is consistent with that awarded during 2016 to 2017 and 2017 to 2018.

9.3.

In accordance with the Code of Guidance on funding External Bodies and following the Public Pound, the Council has a duty to ensure adequate stewardship of Council funds at all times. It should be viewed as good practice that the Council has the necessary systems and controls in place to protect its investments.

9.4.

Any such funding arrangements to the value of £10,000 per annum and above should be the subject of a formal Service Level Agreement, be approved in advance and be the subject of regular monitoring and reporting. This includes, for example, consideration of an annual budget and business plan for each service provider, followed by an annual performance review to monitor performance against agreed aims and objectives.

10. Legal Aspects

10.1.

Section 10 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 provides that a local authority may make contributions by way of a grant or loan to any voluntary organisation, the sole or primary objective of which is to promote social welfare.

10.2.

If grant assistance is to be provided by the Council, a legally binding agreement will require to be entered into between the Council and the recipient setting out the terms on which the funding is being provided.

11. Contact Officers

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12. Appendix

Appendix 1: Equality Impact Assessment.