

The Highland Council

Transport, Environmental and Community Services Committee 19 September 2013

Agenda Item	9
Report No	TEC 69/13

Review of Community Transport

Report by Director of Transport, Environmental and Community Services

Summary

This report updates Members on the work carried out to date on the review of Community Transport. It also recommends continuation of the existing level of funding for Community Transport into 2014/15.

1. Background

- 1.1. At their meeting on 16 May 2013, the Committee approved the scope of a review of Community Transport to be carried out during this year, and noted that an update would be reported to the TECS Committee in September.
- 1.2. Members will also be aware that the Scottish Government's Infrastructure and Capital Investment Committee is undertaking a review of Community Transport, and the Chair of TECS has given evidence to the Inquiry.

2. Community Transport Review - update

- 2.1. Provision of community transport and other demand-responsive transport across the Council area is being mapped as part of the review. The maps are substantially complete but some detail changes and revisions to the formats are still required. These maps will be included in the final report.
- 2.2. The maps will show:
 - The parts of the Council area where flexible transport is available within a defined locality, either to anyone (e.g. a dial-a-bus service) or to a proportion of the population (e.g. a community car scheme operating with a membership list);
 - The existence of vehicles owned by community groups and public bodies which are either actually or potentially available for community use. All relevant voluntary sector vehicles have been included as far as they are known, including many which are not funded by the Council, although availability of these varies greatly.
- 2.3. The purpose of this mapping is to show where flexible services (of various types) exist, rather than to highlight community transport services in particular,

and to show where resources exist which could be used to provide community transport.

- 2.4. A next step would be to identify areas of need where there is no form of flexible transport provision.
- 2.5. Four of the community transport groups which the Council funds have been selected for detailed study. These are:
 - Voluntary Action Lochaber
 - Nairn Community Transport
 - Lochaber Community Car Scheme
 - South-West Ross Community Car Scheme

These groups were chosen in order to give a balance between urban and rural operations and between minibus and car schemes.

- 2.6. Surveys were issued to volunteers, and scheme co-ordinators were interviewed, in order to determine what they saw as the key needs of their schemes and benefits achieved by them. Analysis of the surveys is in progress.
- 2.7. Two workshops have been held to allow Community Transport Groups and other interested parties to feed directly into the review. The first workshop was in Inverness on 5 September and the second in Lairg on 6 September. The workshops were attended by a wide range of individuals and groups with an interest in community transport. Written comments have also been invited.
- 2.8. It is intended to hold a further workshop later in the year, where provisional findings from the review would be presented for comment.

3. Scottish Government Review of Community Transport

- 3.1. The Scottish Government's Infrastructure and Capital Investment Committee is undertaking a review of Community Transport, and the Scottish Government's initial response to the Committee's findings was issued at the end of August.
- 3.2. It is important that the Scottish Government's final response to the Committee's findings is taken account of in the Council's review and we await the final response.

4. Community Transport funding for 2014-15

- 4.1. It is intended that the findings of the Council's review, and the Scottish Government's final response to the Infrastructure and Capital Investment Committee's findings are used to inform the Council's future strategy for supporting community transport.
- 4.2. However, the outcome of the Review may not be available in time to determine the funding allocations for 2014/15, and it is recommended that the current

level of funding is continued into 2014/15, as detailed in **Appendix A**.

- 4.3. Members will recall that a contingency fund of £31,513 was provided within the community transport budget, to cater for training needs and unexpected repairs to vehicles. To date, £8,000 has been paid or requested from this fund. It is recommended that a similar provision be included in the allocation for 2014/15.
- 4.4. The funding claimed by each Group will be reviewed towards the end of the current financial year and it is proposed that powers are delegated to the Director of Transport, Environmental and Community Services, in consultation with the Chair of TEC Services, to make minor adjustments to funding for individual Groups for 2014/15. Any major changes would be reported back to Committee.

5. Implications

- 5.1. There are no resource implications arising from this report, as the budget is contained within the overall Revenue Budget.
- 5.2. The review will address equalities implications, particularly in respect of mobility and accessibility issues.
- 5.3. Improving the effectiveness of community transport should make a contribution to carbon reduction targets.
- 5.4. There are no legal implications arising from this report.
- 5.5. There are no risk implications arising from this report.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1. Members are invited to note progress on the review of Community Transport.
- 6.2. Members are invited to approve that the current level of funding for Community Transport Groups, as shown in **Appendix A** is carried forward to 2014/15.
- 6.3. Members are invited to delegate powers to the Director of Transport, Environmental and Community Services, in consultation with the Chair of TEC Services, to make minor adjustments to funding for individual Groups for 2014/15. Any major changes would be reported back to Committee.

Designation: Director of Transport, Environment and Community Services

Date: 6 September 2013

Author: D. Summers

Proposed Allocation of Grants for Community Transport Groups - 2014/15

Appendix A

Currently funded: Community transport operations

	Applicant	Type of Scheme	Grant Applied for 2013/14	Other Funding 2013/14	Total Cost 2013/14	Amount Agreed 2013/14	Amount Recommended 2014/15
1	Helmsdale & District Community Bus Association	Group Hire and Section 22 work	£5,860	£5,145	£11,005	£3,685	£3,685
2	Transport For Tongue	Group Hire and contract work	£22,914	£30,795	£53,709	£22,014	£22,014
3	South West Ross Community Car Scheme	Car scheme	£27,959	£5,950	£34,009	£27,555	£27,555
4	Caithness Voluntary Group	Group hire and Section 22 work	£43,000	£77,863	£120,863	£37,100	£37,100
5	Morvern Community Transport Association	Group Hire	£11,000	£35,668	£46,668	£11,000	£11,000
6	Gairloch Community Car Scheme	Group Hire	£28,768	12,318.19	£41,086	£28,768	£28,768
7	North West Community Bus Association	Group Hire and Section 22 work	£26,465	£9,675	£36,140	£23,065	£23,065
8	Lochleven Community Minibus Association	Group Hire	£8,000	£15,800	£23,800	£8,000	£8,000
9	Mallaig & District Community Transport Association	Group Hire	£6,500	£8,210	£14,710	£5,750	£5,750
10	Sleat Community Trust	Subsidised Taxi	£15,000	£6,430	£21,430	£15,000	£15,000
11	Strathnairn Community Transport Association	Car Hire Scheme	£8,750	£9,021	£17,771	£8,022	£8,022

12	Care Lochaber	Car Scheme and transport forum	£57,750	£18,729	£76,479	£57,750	£57,750
13	Nairn Community Transport Company	Group Hire	£10,900	£42,000	£52,900	£6,250	£6,250
14	Skye & Lochalsh CVO	Scheduled Bus and Hire	£11,652	£5,508	£17,160	£10,902	£10,902
15	Wick & East Caithness CT	Group Hire	4415	£4,415	8,830.00	£4,415	£4,415
16	Badenoch & Strathspey Community Transport Company	Car Scheme	£57,753	£159,534	£217,287	£40,000	£40,000
17	Àrainn Shuaineirt (The Sunart Centre)	Group Hire	£27,000	£23,000	£50,000	£27,000	£27,000
	SUB-TOTAL		£373,686	£470,062	£843,847	£336,276	£336,276

Transport Forum

	Applicant	Type of Scheme	Grant Applied for 2013/14	Other Funding 2013/14	Total Cost 2013/14	Amount Agreed 2013/14	Amount Recommended 2014/15
18	Inverness and Nairn Transport Forum	Trainer and Supporter of a wide variety of CT schemes. Will also deliver Driver CPC to small operators.	£9,000	£18,809	£27,809	£7,350	£7,350
	SUB-TOTAL		£9,000	£18,809	£27,809	£7,350	£7,350

New Applications - 2013/14

	Applicant	Type of Scheme	Grant Applied for 2013/14	Other Funding 2013/14	Total Cost 2013/14	Amount Agreed 2013/14	Amount Recommended 2014/15
19	Ardersier, Petty, Croy and Culloden Moor Transport Association	Group Hire	£7,565	£11,000	£18,565	£4,415	£4,415
20	Black Isle Community Car Scheme	Car Scheme	£29,279	£14,990	£44,269	£29,279	£29,279
21	Bradbury Centre	Group hire Section 22 work	£380	£545	£925	£380	£380
22	Lochaber Action Disability	Group hire and Section 22 work	£2,748	£44,878	£47,632	£2,748	£2,748

23	South Loch Ness Fort Augustus and Glenmorrison CC	Car Scheme	£9,280	£8,500	£17,780	£5,000	£5,000
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SUB-TOTAL			£49,252	£79,913	£129,171	£41,822	£41,822
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TOTAL			£431,938	£568,784	£1,000,827	£385,448	£385,448
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Major Mechanical Repairs & Training Fund £31,513

Total Budget £416,961