

The Highland Council
Community Services Committee
18 August 2016

Agenda Item	19
Report No	COM 38/18

Transport Programme

Report by Director of Community Services

Summary

This report presents a recommendation for the award of a Community Transport Grant for the two-year period 1 April 2017 – 31 March 2019.

1. Background

- 1.1. Community Services Committee of 4 February 2016 approved the award of grants to 24 groups across The Highland Council's area, plus the establishment of two central funds: 'Training and Significant/Unexpected Vehicle Repairs' and a 'Development Fund for Assisting Project Growth and Embryonic Initiatives'.
- 1.2. One applicant, Partnerships for Wellbeing (PFW) on behalf of Inverness Voluntary Transport Scheme (IVTS), did not receive a grant under this process. The principal rationale for this refusal was that it was seeking support for a service substantially focused on supporting the health sector.

2. New Information

- 2.1. Fresh information which justifies the reconsideration of the recommendation made to the 4 February Committee has been supplied by Partnerships for Wellbeing.
- 2.2. Key features of the fresh information are:
 - a second vehicle has become available (gifted) far sooner than expected and is now in service. This is not tied to a health sector service level agreement;
 - the Partnership now has a substantial focus on providing transport services to support participation in social activities for all age groups represented in the 534 current users of the service. The new vehicle generates this capacity, bolstered by additional volunteer drivers, now numbering 20; and
 - evidence of factors which limit the IVTS clientele's use of commercial and public transport services, thus allaying previous concerns about market displacement.

3. Funding the Recommendation

- 3.1. The range of funding which PFW will call upon to support IVTS over the two-

year period has been broadened from the initial application. Based on this, and the points conveyed in paragraph 2.2 above, a Community Transport Grant award of £13,000 (thirteen thousand pounds) is recommended for each of the two financial years 2017/18 and 2018/19.

3.2. To support this recommendation, it will be necessary to call upon the two central funds specified in paragraph 1.1 above. At present there is an annual allocation to these central funds of:

- Training/Vehicle Repairs - £13,197
- Development Fund - £7,590

3.3. It is proposed that £8,000 from the Training/Vehicle Repairs allocation and £5,000 from the Development Fund is used to finance the grant recommendation. Actual payment of grant would be made monthly at one-twelfth of the annual rate and in line with the standard reporting procedure of the group submitting quarterly claims and the 6-month reporting forms.

3.4. The potential downside is that Highland Council's ability to support training / vehicle repair costs and new project initiatives would be reduced during the two-year period of the grant.

4. Implications

4.1. There are no new implications arising concerning resource; legal; equalities; climate change/Carbon Clever; risk, Gaelic and rural factors

Recommendations

Members are invited to approve a Community Transport Grant of £13,000 to Partnerships for Wellbeing on behalf of Inverness Voluntary Transport Scheme.

Designation: Director of Community Services

Date: 18 August 2016

Author: Stephen Graham