

**Public Transport - Discretionary Funding**

---

**1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1. This paper outlines recommendations for the use of the funding available to support discretionary transport projects during 2012-13. The recommendations have been established following consideration of the business cases submitted by community transport groups and patronage levels, where appropriate on local bus services.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1. Members are asked to note the recommendation from the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Local Area Community Planning Group appendix B, and to approve the funding recommendations outlined within Appendix A of this report.

**3. DETAIL**

- 3.1 As a result of the School and Public Transport Service Review, and the subsequent agreement reached during the Council budget setting process in February 2011, the discretionary funding available for rural transport initiatives and community transport groups was reduced from £726,035 to £275,000.
- 3.2 Accordingly, the reduced budget for discretionary expenditure on transport (formerly Rural Transport Grant and Enhanced Demand Transport Grant) continues to fund a smaller number of rural transport initiatives and community transport groups.
- 3.3 Appendix A of this report outlines recommendations for the allocation of the available funding for 2012-13. This amounts to £319,143 following provision for inflation.
- 3.4 The routes and projects recommended for support in 2012-13 are, with minor alterations, those which remained after the application of the review process undertaken for the 2011-12 budget. It should be noted that the recommendations for the community transport groups have been established following evaluation of the case each has made in their application for funding.
- 3.5 Members are asked to note that all community transport groups provided a projected cost analysis for three years when

applying for funding but since 2010-11, awards have only been made for one year.

- 3.6 A recommendation from the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Local Area Community Planning Group of 7 March 2012 is attached as Appendix B.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 Applications received from community transport groups have all been reviewed in light of the available budget and the recommendations arising from this exercise are presented in Appendix A for consideration.
- 4.2 Members are reminded that, with the exception of the Scottish Citylink service 926 enhancement, which was guaranteed for three years from 2011-12, all the discretionary funding recommended for award in 2012-13 is for a period of one year only.

#### **5. IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Financial – The recommendations are made for the use of the available discretionary funding in 2012-13.
- 5.2 Personnel – None
- 5.3 Equal Opportunities – All Service Review options were subject to an Equality Impact Assessment prior to setting the 2011-12 budget.
- 5.4 Legal – None
- 5.5 Policy – The recommendations accord with the Council's Corporate Plan objectives.

#### **6 APPENDICES**

- 6.1 **Appendix A** - List of transport funding recommendations for 2012-13
- 6.2 **Appendix B** – Extract from the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Local Area Community Planning Group.

Executive Director of Customer Services  
8<sup>th</sup> March 2012

For further information contact:  
Malcolm MacFadyen. Head of Facility Services, Telephone 01546 604412