

# CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS MEETING FOR ENVIRONMENT

13<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2021

<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	<b>Portfolio:</b>
Cllr. Hazel Evans	Environment
<b>CARMARTHEN SHOPMOBILITY</b>	
<b>Purpose:</b> To approve support for Carmarthen Shopmobility for September 2021 to September 2022	
<b>Recommendations / key decisions required:</b> The Carmarthen Shopmobility be supported with an annual grant of £19,650 which includes £14,650 for the operation of the business and £5,000 to cover the loss of income during the on-going Covid pandemic for a further twelve month period commencing September 2021.	
<b>Reasons:</b> Shopmobility is one of many initiatives being encouraged by the Authority to support the town and is an important element of ensuring access to shops, businesses and services within Carmarthen is inclusive and caters for those with mobility impairments.  Shopmobility is a registered charity based in Carmarthen Town Centre which provides facilities such as wheelchairs and mobility scooters for visitors to use within the town.	
<b>Directorate:</b> Environment <b>Name of Head of Service Highways &amp; Transportation:</b> Steve Pilliner	E-mail <a href="mailto:sgpilliner@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">sgpilliner@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>
<b>Report Author:</b> Richard Waters	E Mail Address: <a href="mailto:rwaters@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">rwaters@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>

**Declaration of Personal Interest (if any):**

None

**Dispensation Granted to Make Decision (if any):**

N/A

**DECISION MADE:**

**Signed:**

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
CABINET MEMBER

The following section will be completed by the Democratic Services Officer in attendance at the meeting

Recommendation of Officer adopted	YES / NO
Recommendation of the Officer was adopted <b>subject to the amendment(s) and reason(s) specified:</b>	
Reason(s) why the Officer's recommendation was <b>not adopted:</b>	

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**  
**CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS MEETING FOR ENVIRONMENT**  
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**CARMARTHEN SHOPMOBILITY**

The County Council has supported the Carmarthen Shopmobility scheme since 2011. The current funding is an annual arrangement renewed each September.

The Carmarthen scheme provides a valuable service for the mobility impaired and has been successful with a pre-covid usage of around 1,289 customers per annum. Lockdown restrictions forced Shopmobility to close in March 2020 but through the good work of staff and Trustees the operation reopened in November 2020.

Whilst footfall in the town has slowly started to recover the impact of covid has significantly reduced the customer base and a full recover to pre-covid levels may not be achievable in the 2021/22 year to September 2022.

The scheme is mainly reliant on the County Council's financial support and an annual grant of £14,650 is normally provided which is funded from the County Council's Community Transport element of the Bus Services Support Grant. In the year 2020/21 an additional £5,000 was provided to compensate for the loss of income due to the covid impacts. It is recommended that this is continued for a further 12 months from September 2021.

Shopmobility supports the County Council's updated *Corporate Strategy 2018-2023* which includes specific recognition of the importance of inclusive mobility in:

- Providing integrated and affordable access for businesses, for residents and visitors can stimulate economic development, reductions in deprivation and social exclusion and an increase in well-being.
- Sustaining access to services will deliver improvements in health and well-being for all sections of the community e.g. that includes walking, cycling, passenger and road transport.

The Council has set aside funding to fund a further twelve months support.

It is therefore recommended that the Carmarthen Shopmobility scheme is supported with funding of £19,650 for a further twelve months from September 2021.

Should there be any surplus funding at the end of their financial year it would be relatively modest and reinvested in supporting the operation of the service.

**Recommendation:** The Carmarthen Shopmobility be supported with a further grant of £19,650 for a further twelve month period commencing September 2021.

**DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?**

**NO**

## IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

**Signed: S.G. Pilliner**

**Head of Transportation & Highways**

Policy and Crime & Disorder	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Organisational Development	Physical Assets
<b>YES</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>

**Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities**

Providing more facilities for the mobility impaired is an important element supporting the Authority's updated Corporate Strategy 2018-23..

**Finance**

All associated costs will be funded form the community transport element of the Bus Services Support Grant.

# CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: S.G.Pilliner

Head of Transportation & Highways

**1. Scrutiny Committee**

Not applicable

**2. Local Member(s)**

Not applicable

**3. Community / Town Council**

Not applicable

**4. Relevant Partners**

Not applicable

**5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations**

Not applicable

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information  
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

**THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW**

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Corporate Strategy 2018-23 (Updated April 2021)		<a href="https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-democracy/strategies-and-plans/corporate-strategy-2018-2023-updated-april-2021/">https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-democracy/strategies-and-plans/corporate-strategy-2018-2023-updated-april-2021/</a>