

CABINET MEMBER DECISION MEETING FOR TRANSPORT, WASTE AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

15TH MAY 2023

Cabinet Member: Cllr. Edward Thomas	Portfolio: Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services
LLANELLI SHOPMOBILITY	
Purpose: To address the funding shortfall impact of covid and to sustain the business	
Recommendations / key decisions required: To approve a grant payment of £5000 to Llanelli Shopmobility to cover loss of income and depletion of reserves due to covid.	
Reasons: To ensure business continuity of the charity which provides access support to shoppers and visitors with mobility impairments in Llanelli Town Centre.	
Directorate: Place & Infrastructure Name of Head of Service: Steve Pilliner	Designation Head of Transportation and Highways SGPilliner@Carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Report Author: Richard Waters	Highways & Transportation Services Manager rwaters@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Declaration of Personal Interest (if any):

None

Dispensation Granted to Make Decision (if any):

(If the answer is yes exact details are to be provided below:)

DECISION MADE:

To approve a grant payment of £5000 to Llanelli Shopmobility to cover loss of income and depletion of reserves due to covid.

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 subject to the amendment(s) and reason(s) specified:	
Reason(s) why the Officer's recommendation was not adopted:	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CABINET MEMBER DECISION MEETING FOR TRANSPORT, WASTE AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

15TH MAY 2023

LLANELLI SHOPMOBILITY

Llanelli Shopmobility operates as a charity based in LTC in Cowell Street which hires out mobility scooters and wheelchairs to shoppers and visitors with mobility impairments to access the town centre for a nominal fee.

Carmarthenshire County Council has provided financial support to Llanelli Shopmobility since 2011. The current funding is an annual grant from the Council's Community Transport Grant which covers the period August to the following July. The current County Council 2022/23 grant has been paid in the sum of £15,236.

The Shopmobility scheme is reliant on two main sources of income, the County Council's annual grant, and the income from the hire of mobility scooters and wheelchairs. Before covid the hire income was in the order of £5,000 per year but this has decreased to around £2,000 per year due to covid impacts.

The current annual operating costs of Llanelli Shopmobility are over £20,000 whereas the income is around £17,236.

During the covid lockdown period no grant was paid by the County Council between August 2020 and July 2021. During the financial year 2020/21 Shopmobility did receive a separate covid grant of £10,000 and a hire income of £601 but had outgoing expenses of £19,545. To cover the shortfall the charity used its financial reserves and there is a risk that it will not be able to meet its financial debts and commitments, and maintain a minimum £8,000 in reserves which is required by its constitution.

Short Term

In the short term it is recommended that a one-off grant of £5,000 is paid to Llanelli Shopmobility to ensure that the operation remains open to serve the Town Centre and that the Trustees who run the charity can meet their financial obligations. This sum has been agreed by the Trustees as the amount necessary to maintain business operations in the short-term.

Long Term

Discussions are on-going with Llanelli BID, the Chamber of Commerce and the Town Council to explore options for managing the operation, expanding the number of Trustees to bring in new skills and opportunities such as sponsorships. The situation of Shopmobility has also been raised with the Llanelli Town Centre Task Force to invite other partners to become involved and contribute to its future viability. Grant funding opportunities are also being explored with the County Council's Regeneration Team.

Budget

The £5,000 payment has been agreed with the Passenger Transport Manager and can be accommodated from the Community Transport budget.

Recommendation

To approve a grant payment of £5000 to Llanelli Shopmobility to cover loss of income and depletion of reserves due to covid.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?	NO
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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 and Highways

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

Finance

Financial impacts are discussed within the report with the payment being made from the Bus Services Support Grant which has an element for Community Transport. Should the scheme cease operating, any unspent element of the grant is required to repaid to the Council.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: R Waters

Highways & Transportation Services Manager

1. Scrutiny Committee – N/A
2. Local Member(s) - N/A
3. Community / Town Council – N/A
4. Relevant Partners - N/A
5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations - N/A

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)		https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-democracy/strategies-and-plans/corporate-strategy-2018-2023-updated-april-2021/