



RHONDDA CYNON TAF

RECORD OF DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION

Key Decision

✓

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY TRANSPORT FUNDING IN 2017/18

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

In accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation, this report has been prepared to accompany the intended officer decision of the Director Of Highways And Streetcare Services as described below.

This report details the award of grant funding to the community transport organisations in Rhondda Cynon Taf in 2017/18.

DELEGATED DECISION

It is agreed that:

- (a) the contents of the funding submissions, prepared by each of the three community transport organisations in Rhondda Cynon Taf and shown in Appendix A, are noted.
- (b) the level of grant funding available from the Council's resources and through the Welsh Government's Bus Services Support Grant (BSSG) is noted.
- (c) the Council's provision of financial assistance in 2017/18 of £75,961 to Accessible Caring Transport, £53,085 to TraVol Community Transport and £11,191 to Village and Valleys Community Transport is agreed for the reasons set out in this report.
- (d) the Council continues to explore ways in which it can provide practical assistance to these organisations.

Chief Officer Signature

NIGEL WHEELER

Print Name

20.6.17

Date

The decision is taken in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government Act, 2000 (Executive Functions) and in the terms set out in Section 5 of Part 3 of the Council's Constitution.

CONSULTATION

A. Morgan

20/6/2017

CONSULTEE CABINET MEMBER SIGNATURE

DATE

RJ Wills

20/6/17

CONSULTEE OFFICER SIGNATURE

DATE

CALL IN PROCEDURE RULES.

IS THE DECISION DEEMED URGENT AND NOT SUBJECT TO CALL-IN BY THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:

NO ✓

Reason for urgency:.....

If deemed urgent - signature of Mayor or Deputy Mayor or Head of Paid Service confirming agreement that the proposed decision is reasonable in all the circumstances for it being treated as a matter of urgency, in accordance with the overview and scrutiny procedure rule 17.2:

.....
(Mayor)

.....
(Dated)

NB - If this is a reconsidered decision then the decision Cannot be Called In and the decision will take effect from the date the decision is signed.

FOR CABINET OFFICE USE ONLY

PUBLICATION & IMPLEMENTATION DATES

PUBLICATION

Publication on the Councils Website:- 22/06/17

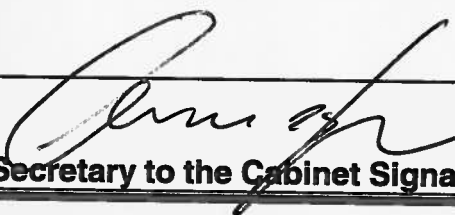
DATE

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION

Note: This decision will not come into force and may not be implemented until the expiry of 5 clear working days after its publication to enable it to be the subject to the Call-In Procedure in Rule 17.1 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

Subject to Call In the implementation date will be 30/06/17

DATE

 Secretary to the Cabinet Signature	CHRISTIAN SS HANAGAN Print Name	20/6/17. Date
---	---	-------------------------

Further Information

Directorate:	Corporate and Frontline Services
Contact Name	Charlie Nelson
Designation:	Transportation Manager
Tel. No.	01443 494818

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2017-18

**REPORT TO ACCOMPANY A DECISION OF THE DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS AND
STREETCARE SERVICES**

Part 1	Item No.
COMMUNITY TRANSPORT FUNDING IN 2017/18	

DATE: June 2017

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report details the award of grant funding to the community transport organisations in Rhondda Cynon Taf in 2017/18.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that:

- (a) the contents of the funding submissions, prepared by each of the three community transport organisations in Rhondda Cynon Taf and shown in Appendix A, are noted.
- (b) the level of grant funding available from the Council's resources and through the Welsh Government's Bus Services Support Grant (BSSG) is noted.
- (c) the Council's provision of financial assistance in 2017/18 of £75,961 to Accessible Caring Transport, £53,085 to TraVol Community Transport and £11,191 to Village and Valleys Community Transport is agreed for the reasons set out in this report.
- (d) the Council continues to explore ways in which it can provide practical assistance to these organisations.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To provide support for the Community Transport operations within Rhondda Cynon Taf, having assessed the funding submissions against the available resources.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 As part of its policy to reduce social exclusion in Rhondda Cynon Taf, the Council provides financial support to local community transport organisations who offer door-to-door accessible transport services for those residents who are unable to travel on the scheduled local bus network.
- 4.2 Each year, the three community transport organisations in Rhondda Cynon Taf (Accessible Caring Transport, TraVol Community Transport and Village and Valleys

Community Transport) are invited to submit bids for funding from the Council's Community Transport Fund. This fund is made up from the Council's own resources and the funding for community transport that the Council receives from the Welsh Government (WG).

- 4.3 The bidding process enables the Council to demonstrate that its financial support for community transport is being spent in an effective and transparent manner. The Community Transport Association advocates such transparency in support of community transport operations.

5. ISSUES AFFECTING GRANT FUNDING

- 5.1 Following the Council's decision in May 2014 to implement "Medium Term Service Planning – Service Change Proposals", support for community transport from the Council's own resources in 2015/16 fell to £25,501. This was particularly challenging for the three local operators, as it coincided with WG no longer providing funding under its Access to NHS Services scheme.
- 5.2 In order to protect Accessible Caring Transport's RangeRider demand responsive services into Ysbyty Cwm Cynon and TraVol's similar Blue Dragon services into Royal Glamorgan Hospital, both of which had submitted notice to reduce their provision, additional funding was provided in the second half of 2015/16. This level of support by the Council continued into 2016/17 and for 2017/18, an equivalent sum of £78,746 has been identified.
- 5.3 For 2017/18, the Council continues to receive Bus Services Support Grant (BSSG) from WG. Once again, it is administered for WG in the Council's area by Monmouthshire County Council, and is overseen by the South East Wales Bus Funding Project Board. From its BSSG allocation of £579,848, the Council has therefore allocated £78,887 in order to meet the WG guidelines and provide good quality community transport services that deliver value for money and are integrate with the public transport network.
- 5.4 Taking this allocation from the Council's overall BSSG and adding it support from the Council's own resources, as identified in paragraph 5.2, a total of £157,633 is spent on community transport services by the Council. Having deducted payments of £17,396 for public transport contracts, the Community Transport Fund itself in 2017/18 amounts to £140,237.
- 5.5 However with a further 0.2% reduction in the overall level of BSSG funding for South East Wales, the Board has set a budget that once again makes no provision to support capital enhancements. In the past, this small fund has assisted the three local operators to top up other funds that they had secured to enable the purchase of new or newer vehicles. In order to maintain such opportunities in 2016/17, a small one off fund of £17,500 was provided from the Council's resources but it has not been possible to identify a similar capital fund in 2017/18.
- 5.6 The Community Transport Fund will be distributed accordingly in order to ensure co-ordination, to assist the community transport organisations within Rhondda Cynon Taf in the planning of their operations and to enable the continued operation

of community orientated demand responsive services in an attempt to stimulate greater user demand.

- 5.7 Notwithstanding this, the future of these services in their current form remains uncertain following further reductions in WG expenditure. These changes to the reimbursement rate for the concessionary journeys that are made by the elderly and disabled, and to the manner in which the young person's discount scheme is reimbursed have not only had a negative but also a significantly disproportionate impact on the community transport sector. In Rhondda Cynon Taf, this amounts to a reduction in income of £24,500 in 2017/18 and during the year, the Council will work closely with the Community Transport Association Wales and the three local operators to identify alternative funding streams.

6. AWARD OF GRANT FUNDING

- 6.1 The three community transport organisations in Rhondda Cynon Taf have been asked to set out their plans for utilising the Council's community transport funding. The information submitted in response is included in Appendix A, though the combined amount of funding requested by them exceeds this figure. It can also be seen that the proposed uses for the grant money differs between each of the organisations, reflecting the local needs and priorities.
- 6.2 Having reviewed the bids, it is proposed that financial assistance be provided to each of the community transport organisations in Rhondda Cynon Taf as per the details set out in the summary table below.

ORGANISATION	PURPOSE OF FUNDING	SIZE OF AWARD
Accessible Caring Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management and administration of the RangeRider service. • Drivers, on costs and training. • Contribution to PCV MoT. 	£46,774
		£28,944
		£ 243
		£75,961
TraVol Community Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution to the running costs of the Blue Dragon Section 22 demand responsive routes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wages, NI and Pensions. ○ Fuel, vehicle insurance, repairs and servicing. ○ Administration. 	£26,367
		£16,866
		£ 9,852
		£53,085
Village & Valleys Community Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution toward driver and office wages. • Contribution to premises, rates and utilities. 	£ 8,477
		£ 2,714
		£11,191

- 6.3 These figures have been determined after taking account of the following criteria:

- the extent to which the award will be used to maintain the existing level of operations. For example, use of administrative systems to improve vehicle utilisation.

- the type of journeys operated for residents. For example, are they duplicating journeys that residents could potentially make on local bus services?
- evidence of partnership working with other bodies. For example, Communities First, Local Health Board.
- the commitment to maintain community focussed Section 22 demand responsive services. For example RangeRider and Blue Dragon.

7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The funding allocations demonstrate that, in operating door-to-door transport services for people with a mobility impairment, the three community transport organisations are complying with the Council's commitments to equality and diversity.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 8.1 Of the total commitment of £140,237, a sum of £78,887 will be met from within the BSSG allocation from Welsh Government for the provision of good quality community transport services that deliver value for money and integrate with the public transport network. The balance is made up from existing budget allocations.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATION(S) OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 9.1 There is no statutory basis to provide community transport services.

10. LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES/ SIP / FUTURE GENERATIONS – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

- 10.1 This proposal reinforces the priorities set out in the Rhondda Cynon Taf Corporate Plan by promoting independence and positive lives for everyone. A more inclusive service delivers greater benefits to the community.

11. CONCLUSION

- 11.1 The action outlined in this report has provided all three of the community transport organisations in Rhondda Cynon Taf with support in 2017/18 and should assist them in planning, maintaining and delivering their operations.
- 11.2 Excluding the one off contribution in 2016/17 of capital funding toward vehicle replacement, the total available within the Community Transport Fund in 2017/18 has increased by £5,646. This seeks to help the three community transport operators to maintain their existing service provision for those who otherwise would face social exclusion.
- 11.3 In view of the increasingly challenging financial environment that these organisations find themselves operating within, every effort will be made during the financial year to work with them and the Community Transport Association Wales to identify alternative funding streams.

Appendix A



**Accessible Caring Transport is a Registered Charity
And a Company Limited by Guarantee**

Accessible Caring Transport

**4 Knight Street, Mountain Ash
Rhondda Cynon Taff CF45 3EY**
Registered Charity No: 1072833 Registered Company No: 2730904

Telephone: 01443 478013 Fax: 01443 475226
Email: enquiries@accessibletransport.co.uk Website: accesscaringtransport.co.uk

30th April 2017

To: Anthony Richardson
Senior Transport Officer

Dear Mr. Richardson,

Re: Application for CT Revenue Funding 2017-2018

Please find attached the submission for Accessible Caring Transport for the year 2017-2018 funding.

Sincerely

P. R. Bowen

Patricia Bowen
Executive Officer/Company Secretary

APPLICATION FOR CT GRANT REVENUE FUNDING 2017-2018

Accessible Caring Transport
4 Knight St.
Mountain Ash
CF45 3EY
01443 478013

Accessible Caring Transport strategy is to consolidate current service developments to date while developing new services. The RangeRider service (Section 22 Permits) will continue on designated routes only using two 12 seat accessible minibuses, while investigating the opportunities to develop additional services at the top end of the valley areas. Section 19 Permit journeys will continue to be maintained and further developed and will now include journeys for the Wales Ambulance Transport Service (WAST). In addition the opportunity to deliver subsidised bus routes will be investigated. The charity will explore additional work in partnership with other CT operators where possible to achieve further generated income in the forthcoming year.

RangeRider Service development

The RangeRider service has now been operating for over 5 years as a door to door, flexible many to many service, under Section 22 Permits, within the operating area of Rhondda Cynon Taff, Merthyr Tydfil, and Caerphilly County Councils. The service this year will be operated by 2 vehicles across a six day week, supported by an additional vehicle for one off journeys where necessary. Several routes have now been set in place, and been adjusted to meet the needs of passengers. The demand for journeys has reached full capacity on a Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings within Cynon Valley. On Monday, Wednesday and Friday the journey to Merthyr Tydfil area picks up on route to the bus station and returning to Cynon Valley Hospital and residential homes for the afternoon service, while on return brings back passengers to Cynon Valley. Thursday has been the slowest day of the week and therefore has been withdrawn. The Outriderz service had been intended to operate on Thursday but the lack of passengers unwilling to pay for a service out of the area has brought this service to a close temporarily. When sufficient passengers become available the route will be re-introduced.

Currently the most frequently used destinations on the RangeRider service continue to be for social need, across all of Cynon Valley, Pontypridd Bus station, Porth, Upper Boat, Merthyr Tydfil Bus station, and Caerphilly boundary areas. This includes shopping, meetings and events locally, Stroke support group, garden centres, visiting relatives, residential homes, collecting pensions, hairdressers, craft classes and on occasion cultural venues, often integrating with other transport providers. Several members of ACT group members use the service for individual transport needs, especially people with disabilities. The number of requests for transport from disabled people in wheelchairs has increased but unfortunately not all needs can be met as this reduces the capacity of the vehicle to other passengers. During 2016-2017 passenger numbers have reduced due to carrying more wheelchairs which has decreased capacity for other passengers. This has reduced the expected income by around £6K.

The health journeys has now almost declined to around 1% per month to Cynon Valley Hospital due to the increase in commercial services by Stagecoach from Aberdare to the hospital, and the operators of the shuttle bus via Cefn Pennar. Other medical and health appointments including

Doctors, dentists, pain clinics now are covered in the overall journeys on route to other destinations.

The Merthyr Tydfil residents transport to and from Cynon Valley via Trelewis, Treharris to residential homes in Cynon Valley and the new hospital 3 times a week will continue, although numbers have significantly decreased.

The lower end of the valley continues to receive a service on Wednesday to Pontypridd Bus Station and Porth, Friday to Pontypridd Bus Station and Upper Boat retail park. An additional route has been provided on a Tuesday to Asda, but has a low number of passengers due to a wheelchair user's regular use of the service. These routes will continue.

Mountain Ash service operates on a Tuesday to Asda and Tesco in Aberdare. Mountain Ash and the lower end of the valley receive a Saturday service to Aberdare, where many of the passengers use the service to Aberdare Bus Station to join the mainstream bus service to Merthyr Town Centre.

Other users have used the services on other occasions to Mountain Ash and Abercynon train stations to travel on further and arrange for a return the same day or following week.

The top end of the valley to Aberdare receives a service on request and the charity seeks to expand this service gradually. Meetings have taken place with the Pen-y-Cymoedd funding charity to establish what can be financially supported in that area. Interest has been shown in the ideas that have been put forward. Currently a meeting is going ahead with an organisation in Treochy, requests for transport have been made from the Penywaun area and these are all being investigated.

Charges

Overall the majority of passengers are concessionary pass users, either for over 60yrs and for people with disabilities. The Young Persons Concessionary pass is available, but as yet no one has used the service. Currently the fare is £3.00 single for the locality and £3.75 single to Merthyr Tydfil and Caerphilly areas.

As the minimum wage has increased annually the fares should be increased accordingly to ensure the service is viable. Time is becoming an important element in this service with passengers, on occasion, taking 8 minutes to board and alight for one person. As the service is a door to door activity with passenger assistance and increased travel time the fare should be increased to £3.50 single locally and £4 single to Merthyr and Caerphilly areas. Children would be £2.00 single on all services. The £3 single has been in place since the onset of the service. **An agreement with the ITU is urgently required to discuss this matter.**

Outriderz Excursion Service Development

The Outriderz Service, operated under the Section 22 Permit, was initiated by the users and members to visit destinations further afield, that they can't reach directly by mainstream transport.

The charity was successful with a Community Capacity Fund to pilot the development of the project from November 2015 to end March 2016. Passengers also paid toward the service to ensure viability. Several trips were undertaken during the winter months.

The first few months of 2016 several journeys were supported to Cwmbran, Mumbles, Malvern, Porthcawl, Swansea and Caerphilly (over 15 miles distance). Since the first journeys passenger numbers have declined with a resistance to pay toward this service. Only 8 out of 24 journeys were completed. Therefore for the immediate future this service has been withdrawn.

At the general meeting, of passengers and members, to be held in June 2017 this issue will be discussed again as to whether to reintroduce or finish.

RangeRider 2 Vehicles

Passengers

	April 2016 – March 2017	Projected April 2017 – March 2018
RangeRider	7,410	10,000
Outriderz	80	Unknown to be decided
New Routes from Sept 17		700
TOTAL	7,490	11,200

Mileage/Kilometres

	April 2016 – March 2017	Projected April 2017 – March 2018
RangeRider inclusive of Outriderz kilometres	37,536.52	40,000+
New routes Sept 17	0	5,000 approx.
Total	37,536.52	45,000+

RangeRider - Fares generated

	April 2016 – March 2017 £	Projected April 2017 – March 2018 £
Concessionary Fares	£15,830.21	£20,000.00
Cash Fares	£97.00	£100.00
Outriderz	£1,097.50	Unknown
New routes from Sept 17		£1,450
TOTAL	£17,024.71	£21,550.00

Group Transport, Individuals & Contracts

As members of the charity the voluntary sector groups and individuals access the Section 19 Permit scheme. Any resident within the operating area is welcome to join the charity at any time.

The minibuses are used by various groups within Cynon Valley, Rhondda Fawr and surrounding areas to social events. These have included local and Cardiff theatres, Day Centres, bowls clubs, church venues, group meetings, dancing events in Abercynon, dinner events, cultural venues, and day trips to southern coastal areas of Wales. The Royal Glamorgan Hospital service bookings are now on an ad hoc basis at a charge, as requests are quite low.

Over the past year transport has been used to access holiday destinations in Chester and Porthcawl. Several of the individual members, including wheelchair users, used the transport as they had no other way to get to the holiday venue with their accessible equipment and luggage.

The users and members of all the schemes and services bring the needs of the community to the attention of the charity at the Annual General meeting and additional general meetings.

Section 19 Permit	April 2016 – March 2017	Projections April 2017 – March 2018
Kilometres:	34,964.14	35,000
Passengers	3,788	4,500

Contracts

Limited contractual arrangements are in place with Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC and Caerphilly CBC. The decision to reduce tendering for contracts within Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC has been due to the inability to recruit PSV drivers for this work. Therefore additional work is being sought elsewhere. The kilometres travelled is not a financially viable option, nor the increase in minimum wage as BSSG support is not available for this service.

Section 19 Permit Contracts	April 2016 – March 2017	Projections April 2017 – March 2018
Kilometres:	101,381.5	Maintain or renew
Passengers	4,816	Maintain or renew

TOTALS

	April 2016 – March 2017 Passengers	Projected April 2017 – March 2018 Passengers	April 2016 – March 2017 Kilometres	Projected April 2017 – March 2018 Kilometres
RangeRider Section 22	7,410	10,500	37,536.52	40,000
Outriderz Section 22	80	Unknown	Included above	Unknown
Members Section 19	3,788	4,500	34,964.14	35,000
Contracts Section 19	4,816	4,816	101,381.50	101,381.50
New routes from Sept 17	0	700	0	5,000
TOTAL	16,094	20,516	173,882.16	181,381.50

Potential for Expansion with other CT operators

The Community Transport Co-operative (SE Wales) has developed over the past year. The group of 7 constant members have agreed the company registration and this is currently being processed. Issues already discussed have included operating standards, internal training provision and many other issues that provide benefits to the members. These meetings take place on Accessible Caring Transport site at present.

Networking

The charity is a member of the CTA Wales and attends community transport Forums and training sessions for strategic purposes and to network with other operators.

The charity is a member of Interlink and VAMT and interacts with third sector forums and events.

Priority Funding

As the Executive Officer is retiring during 2017 the Trustees have restructured the senior staff roles to ensure continuity of managing the organisation.

To continually maintain and develop new transport provision, and for the charity to meet sustainability, then the following 5 key part time office staff are required as they each have a specific role within the organisation. The charity always works toward more efficiency and effectiveness in the workplace but the service is very demanding.

The charity is encouraging volunteering across all skills required in the operations of the services to support paid staff, although this is becoming increasingly more difficult to recruit volunteers.

Salaries

Title	Job Description	Hours	Annual Salary
Community Transport Manager	Management, Development & monitoring of charity	20 hrs per week	£13,000
Charitable Company Administrator	Board Secretary. Financial Accounts, Payroll, Company Systems & Funding applications.	17.5 hrs per week	£11,375
Office Administrator	Office Admin, data collation for all services and fuel rebate, Membership and bookings	17.5 hrs	£10,010
Transport Admin	Recording of vehicle servicing/MOT's, RangeRider Klm records.	16 hrs	£6,240
Admin Support	Bookings, data entry, journey sheets	20 hrs	£7,800
		TOTAL	£48,425
Employer NI			£3,438.50
Redundancy liabilities			£1,320.47
Pension			£1,500.00
Travel/Training			£1,000.00
		TOTAL	£7,258.97
GRAND TOTAL Salaries		91 hours per week	£55,683.97

Priority Funding

The office staff salaries are a priority to keep the service operating. This sum is £48,425 with additional on costs of £7,258.97

Please note: This is an increase due to the minimum wage rises, and restructuring of senior staff.

RANGERIDER 2 VEHICLES 2017-2018

EXPENDITURE

Drivers			
2 Drivers	30 hrs per week each	23,400.00	
Holiday Cover	240 hrs per year	2,160.00	
Employer NI		<u>1,050.00</u>	
		26,610.00	26,610.00
On costs			
	Redundancy liability	775.00	
	Pension liability 2%	600.00	
	DBS/badges	<u>183.40</u>	
		2,055.40	1,558.40
Training			
	PCV CPC	375.00	
	Midas Refresher	200.00	
	Other ie Fire Evacuation etc.	<u>200.00</u>	
		775.00	775.00
Vehicle Costs			
	Fuel	9,600.00	
	Vehicle Insurance	4,005.00	
	Service & repair (vehicle)	6,745.00	
	Service & repair (lift)	400.00	
	Tyres (full set)	877.00	
	PCV MOT	460.00	
	Road tax	<u>625.00</u>	
		22,712.00	22,712.00
Staffing/costs			
	Management/Admin (including Pension, redundancy) 84% RangeRider costs	46,774.14	46,774.14
Office costs			
	Stationery 50%	1,000.00	
	Telephone including mobiles	1,120.00	
	Building Insurance/General Ins allocation 50%	1,070.00	
	Heat/Light/Water allocation	<u>2,400.00</u>	
		5,590.00	5,590.00
Marketing			
	Promotional literature/web	400.00	500.00
			TOTAL
			104,519.54

Please note: The staffing increase is mainly due to the minimum wage rises.

POTENTIAL INCOME

Merthyr Tydfil CBC grant	£ 1,617.00 agreed		
Klms support/Young People	£ 7,000.00		
Concessionary Pass Fares	£20,000.00		
Cash Fares	£ 100.00		
Outriderz Excursions	£ 000.00		
New route/s	£ 1,450.00		
Total	£30,167.00		
			<u>£30,167.00</u>
			Balance
			£74,352.54

Request for Funding

The request for funding is for the highest possible level toward the total balance of **£74,352.54**. This is a very finite budget and savings have been made where possible. Accessible Caring Transport has no intention of further cuts to service but will have to work within the funding available for 2017-2018.

Further Development of the RangeRider Service

The intention is to provide another 1 -2 routes to meet demand and increase revenue. In addition new areas of work are to be investigated as follows:-

- Continue development discussions with Pen-y-Cynmoedd Funding body for a service at the top end of Cynon Valley and possibly across to Treorchy.
- To investigate the opportunity to provide a subsidised bus service were appropriate.
- To increase the fare to £3.50 single within Cynon Valley, as this has not increased since commencement of the service, and to increase the Merthyr Tydfil fare to £4 single. This is a door to door service and takes more time and mileage to deliver than a commercial operator.

The funding bid to Merthyr Tydfil CBC has been decreased to £1,617 at the end of 2016-2017 and will probably reduce again as been the rule for the past few years. Therefore this service may reduce to 2 days, which could have an impact on Cynon Valley residents that wish to travel to Merthyr on those days.

The Caerphilly CBC do not support any service into that area as the funding is designated elsewhere.

Request for Funding

The request for funding is for the highest possible level toward the total balance of **£74,352.54**

P. R. Bowen
Executive Officer/Company Secretary
30th April 2017

TraVol Community Transport

Unit 8
Maritime Offices
Maesycloed
Pontypridd CF37 1DZ
Tel: 01443 486872
Fax: 01443 486885

Anthony Richardson Esq
Senior Transport Officer
Rhondda Cynon Taff Council
Sardis House, Sardis Road
Pontypridd
CF37 1DU

ENVIRONMENT	
DOC No.	
DATE RECEIVED	27 APR 2017
REFERRED TO	

26 April 2017

Dear Anthony,

TraVol Community Transport – Grant Funding 2017/2018

I am in receipt of your letter dated 5 April 2017 requesting that we formally apply for ongoing funding for the 2017/18 fiscal year.

As requested, I set out below our application for continued grant funding to enable the Charity to maintain the provision of services to disabled and infirm residents of RCT.

TraVol Community Transport (TraVol) operates a total of 14 specially adapted vehicles; employs 16 full-time and 2 part-time staff and has a pool of approximately 20 volunteers providing services to residents of RCT who are unable to use the available public transport network.

TraVol works closely with other Community Transport Organisations and local providers, such as Glyncoch Community First, to ensure that appropriate services are available throughout the whole of RCT and to ensure that there is no duplication of service provision. The services provided by TraVol are complimentary to the core passenger transport network, as the vast majority of our clients are unable to use conventional public transport and require a service directly to and from their home. Our specially adapted vehicles, with lift facilities and driver/escort assistance, are often the **only** source of access for wheelchair users and persons with severe walking difficulties to social and health and leisure services that non-disabled take for granted.

TraVol provides transportation services throughout the entire RCT area, from Blaenrhondda in the North, Taff's Well in the South, Bynna in the West and Cilfynydd in the East. During the year ended 31 March 2017 Travol conducted a total of 67,202 passenger journeys.

Continued.....

Continued.....

Whilst the Charity is in desperate need of funds generally to support its' core activities, the Charity is specifically looking to Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC to provide continued funding for the Section 22 services operated by the Charity serving the Pontyclun and Ynysybwl areas. During the year ended 31 March 2017 a total of 9,481 passenger journeys were provided by these services.

In order to facilitate the continued operation of these services, TraVol seeks funding for the operating costs of two vehicles and a further £48,000 to facilitate the purchase of a new vehicle, as follows:-

		£
Capital Cost (Purchase cost of a 14/16 seat specially adapted vehicle)		<u>48,000</u>
Operating Costs		
Wages, NI & Pensions	(1)	41,350
Fuel		13,600
Vehicle Insurance		2,350
Repairs/service and other vehicle Costs		10,500
Pro Rata share of Administration Costs		15,450
Total Operating Costs	(2)	<u>83,250</u>
less Operating Income		
Section 22 Service Income	(3)	20,000
Youth Discounted Travel Scheme	(4)	Nil
Regional Transport Mileage Support		6,800 (26,800)
Net Operating Funding Requirement		<u>56,450</u>
Total Funding Requirement	(5)	<u>104,450</u>

Notes:-

(1) The significant increase in wages costs is entirely attributable to legislative changes increasing the National Living Wage from £7.20 per hour to £7.50 with effect from 1 April 2017.

(2) Please note that vehicle depreciation of £24,000 per annum has been excluded from operating costs, as it is hoped that separate funding will be available to facilitate the purchase of replacement vehicles when necessary.

Continued.....

Continued.....

(3) The fare income derived from operating Section 22 services represents a fraction of the true operating cost of the service. Unlike public transport organisations, TraVol operates a 'door to destination - to door' service on a pre-booked basis. Consequently, the mileage travelled by our vehicles on a particular route is far greater than that travelled by commercial operators, picking up passengers at fixed bus stops only, on similar routes. The time taken by TraVol vehicles to complete a particular route is also significantly greater than for traditional transport services, in consequence of the additional mileage to be travelled and the time taken by drivers to assist infirm or disabled passengers on and off vehicles.

Given the above, we feel that it is nonsensical to expect the Charity to compete with Public Transport on a fare per passenger basis. Either the fare per passenger needs to be increased significantly to allow for the increased operating costs or this needs to be recognised in supplementary grant funding.

(4) Due to the recently announced changes Travol expects to leave little or no income from the Youth Travel Scheme in 2017/18 (£14,807 in 2016/17).

(5) During previous meetings with RCTCBC, TraVol was encouraged to set up Section 22 services to serve areas within RCT which are, at present, poorly served by public transport. In order to maintain these services the Charity needs to receive funding support **at least equivalent to the operating cost of providing the services.**

Travol has operated its' services under Section 22 of the Transport Act at a loss for the last few years, utilising its' historic reserves to meet the deficit in both its core activities and section 22 services (£70,360 total loss for 2016-17). The Charity cannot allow this situation to continue as it will exhaust its' reserves entirely within 2 years should there be no improvement in its' overall funding position. **In the event that the Charity fails to secure full funding to operate both Section 22 Services for the coming year then it is highly likely that these services will be discontinued and the Charity will endeavour to utilise the vehicles previously engaged in the provision of these services on contracted services to RCTCBC and other clients which generate an economic level of income.**

Continued.....

Continued.....

The Directors of TraVol Community Transport feel that it is important to stress that this funding application is based upon receiving support to meet the full costs of providing Section 22 services only. The Charity also needs funding support for its core activities within the Rhondda Cynon Taf area, but, given the austerity cuts being imposed upon the Welsh Government by Westminster, the Directors recognise that it will probably be necessary to continue to utilise the Charity's historic reserves to support its core activities until either the economic climate improves (and adequate funding again becomes available) or the Charity's reserves are depleted to such a level where they believe that the ongoing viability of the Charity is in danger, and it that it would be appropriate to wind up the Charity on a solvent basis before all reserve funds are used up. The Charity has already taken all available measures available to reduce its overheads to an absolute minimum and can only further reduce the rate of depletion of its' reserves by axing uneconomic services.

The Charity requires regular, sustained and proportionate funding to enable it to plan for the future and to ensure that the ever-growing needs of people within the Community who rely on TraVol's door-to-door service on specially adapted vehicles can be met.

Should you require further information, or require us to expand upon the information contained in this letter please do not hesitate to contact me. We would welcome the opportunity to have further face-to-face discussions on this issue!

We look forward to receiving your favourable reply in the very near future as we cannot continue to sustain the anticipated losses on Section 22 Services without adequate support and we would also wish to give users a minimum of 3-months notice should the services have to be discontinued.

Yours hopefully,



For and on behalf of
TraVol Community Transport

**VILLAGE AND VALLEYS
COMMUNITY TRANSPORT**

9-10 The Strand, Ferndale, CF43 4LY

01443 858462 : 07585 339166

WWW.villageandvalleys.co.uk

2nd May 2017

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find enclosed copy of a signed funding request for 2017-2018

Kind regards,



Jason Evans
Manager

Company Reg no 0741944

Morning Tony

Here is our requirement for the LTSG for 2017/2018.

We have been working with our other Community Transport operators Travol and ACT giving them the work that we could not accommodate within village and valleys

Also recently we have been covering a wider geographical area a lot more as to the other community transport operators unable to cover due to staffing levels or the time of day as we cover 24/7 for all transport needs. This making village and valleys a more adaptable service for the user's needs.

We have had an influx of enquiries from the Cynon valley and also Merthyr hospital journeys and Treorchy doctors surgery, we have noticed since the restriction of ambulance service our users have needed alternative transportation.

We are still providing transport for those who want to use the train but now there is no bus to get to the train station no more. The main bus service is only through main routes and users that have accessible needs such as; disabled, vulnerable, elderly people or they who can access the main route bus service but live in an area that is geographical outside these main routes.

We also assist in getting users to main stream transport where the user is elderly, disabled or unable to get to main routes of public transport due to the area we operate in. Without sufficient funds we would not be able to continue to operate our professional and reliable service the community have come to expect of us.

We anticipate on increasing passenger numbers by 20% if funding is granted, also increase mileage by 15- 20%. Therefore helping the users to get out to main stream transport, hospital, dental and all other appointments as well as leisure and social activities.

We cover the Rhondda Fach and the Rhondda Fawr and other surrounding areas taking our users to many destinations for many purposes.

In the last year we have in house maintenance team and premises to reduce our large maintenance running costs. We hope that this will make it more cost effective for the business, thus saving annual expenditure on maintenance. We have an experienced mechanical engineer with 35 years in the bus industry to help us in this reduction.

We are striving to reduce running costs across the business as a whole.

Due to the above we are requesting funding for; 2017-2018 Percentage towards:

Transport manager /Driver	£16,087
Administrative/office part time	£3,120
Percentage towards:	
Paying for premises including rates;	
Electric, water, phone, internet	£ 6,150
Costs for: Volunteer and Training	£4,500
Total grant applying for =	£29,857

Sign



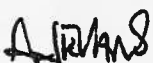
Print

ALAN EVANS

Date

2/5/2017

Sign



Print

ALAN EVANS

Date

2/5/2017