

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Chief Executive

Community Participation Committee: 17 August 2011

Subject: Clyde Shopmobility

1. Purpose

- 1.1** This report provides an update on progress of the Clyde Shopmobility project as presented at the CPC meeting on 23rd March 2011.

2. Background

- 2.1** Clyde Shopmobility is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity. The board is made up of volunteer community members representing disability groups, elderly groups and carer organisations. The purpose of the organisation is to provide loans of mobility equipment to people who are disabled and sighted guides to those with sensory impairment.
- 2.2** At the meeting of 23rd March it was noted that the West Dunbartonshire Community Planning Partnership was involved in negotiations in respect of funding a one year pilot Shopmobility scheme in Clydebank Shopping Centre. It was also noted that a report should be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee describing the up to date situation.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** This section outlines the main issues.

Premises

- 3.2** The pilot project is located at 1 Sylvania Way in the Clyde Shopping Centre. All legal aspects of the premises have now been completed. The premises afford a large shop front area which will be used to house staff and volunteers and to greet and train users of the service. There are 3 rooms to the rear of the shop front area which could be used to accommodate complementary services.

Staffing

- 3.3** Project delivery will be overseen by the seconded member of staff from WDC working with volunteers. The project has an application pending for Community Jobs Scotland, which if successful will bring both a vital staffing resource to the project and provide a young person (18-24) with valuable work experience.

Equipment

- 3.4** The project will provide access to mobility scooters, manual and powered wheelchairs. Equipment has been ordered as this report goes to print. As we progress we will also be developing a 'sighted guide service' for people with sensory impairment. This will require minimal additional equipment.

Funding

- 3.5** To date the project has received an in kind contribution from the Clyde Shopping Centre of £25,000, this is in the form of waived rental of premises. We have submitted a small lottery application and await the outcome. To date the project has received £26,000 of funding from West Dunbartonshire Community Planning Partnership, with a further £15,000 to follow. Funding in kind from the Council of over £37,000 for the cost of a seconded WDC officer is also to be acknowledged. We have approached Lloyds TSB and await feedback on a pending application. We have also submitted an application via WDCVS for Community Health Partnership 'Change Fund' monies which would allow us to appoint a part time member of staff.

Operating Procedures

- 3.6** All operating procedures are in place. These include a range of policies, registration procedures, disclosure checks on volunteers, training and health and safety procedures. Ongoing work includes setting up database and accounting systems.

Delivery and Evaluation

- 3.7** We aim to have the service running initially on a part time basis on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. As the capacity of the project is increased and evaluated, we will seek to increase access times to service. The service will be operational and available to users by the end of July 2011, with a formal launch date of 31st August 2011.
- 3.8** Evaluation will be ongoing with usage statistics collated and benefits reported. This will include number of new members of the scheme trained to use mobility equipment safely, number of times service used, number of members feeling more independent, number of members feeling less isolated, number of 'carers' who report feeling more supported in their caring responsibilities and percentage of retailers surveyed who report positively on project.

4. People Implications

- 4.1** A WDC officer has been seconded to assist the project for one year.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1** Other than the cost of the seconded officer, and the application for non domestic rates relief, there are no financial implications.

6. Risk Analysis

- 6.1** No risk assessment is necessary.

7. Equalities, Health & Human Rights Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 7.1** The project is targeted at the needs of older people and disabled adults of any age. The service will be provided with equality of service in relation to race, disability, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender re-assignment, religion or belief, civil partnership/marriage and pregnancy/maternity, and staff training and communications would reflect the need to cater for recognised requirements of the BME community. Service advertising will take account of the diversity of the communities served. Service monitoring will use the current WDC equality monitoring template and will be analysed, monitored and evaluated for take-up of service.
- 7.2** While the project has a significant beneficial impact on the elderly and disabled, the purpose of this report is merely to advise the committee, not to make decisions on the project. Thus there is no equalities impact from this report, other than to help publicise the scheme.

8. Strategic Assessment

- 8.1** The project contributes mainly to social regeneration by development of a community infrastructure to support people with a disability or sensory impairment to access shops and services within West Dunbartonshire.
- 8.2** Reducing social isolation is an effective contributory approach to improving positive mental health for people at risk of depression. This project will encourage people to develop skills and confidence by encouraging them to do things (for example accessing shops and services) for themselves rather than be wholly dependent on support.

9. Conclusions and Recommendations

- 9.1** The project roll out is going to plan, with the initial phase being focused on service provision. Ongoing work will include seeking new sources of funding to maintain sustainability.
- 9.2** The project should continue to provide progress reports to the Community Participation Committee.
- 9.3** Committee is asked to note the contents of this report

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Date: 02 August 2011

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Appendices: None

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: Pilot phase will impact mainly on Clydebank.