

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Chief Executive

Corporate Services Committee – 28 November 2006

Subject: Linnvale/Drumry Community Minibus

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to seek authorisation to assist Clydebank Group Holiday Project in the purchase of a new minibus by permitting the Linnvale/Drumry Community Minibus to be used as part exchange.

2. Background

- 2.1** Linnvale and Drumry Community Council failed to reform at the Community Council Elections in October 2002 resulting in its assets being returned to West Dunbartonshire Council. One of these assets was a Minibus (Reg No. P618 SGB) which had been available for hire by local community groups in the Clydebank area.
- 2.2** Clydebank Group Holiday Project, as one of the main users of the minibus, expressed an interest in taking over responsibility for running the minibus and has leased it since October 2002 on the proviso that it is responsible for the registration, insurance, garaging and maintenance of the vehicle and also that other groups would continue to be able to hire the bus.
- 2.3** Clydebank Group Holiday Project offers the use of the minibus at low rates as its Small Bus Permit dictates it cannot be a profit-making organisation; the charges are used to cover running costs, insurance etc.
- 2.4** The minibus was originally purchased following a grant from Clydebank District Council in 1996 of £15,000; the only other funding being a donation of £500 from Linnvale and Drumry Community Council in 1997.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** The minibus provides an excellent service to community groups in the Clydebank area and the existing vehicle requires to be replaced as it is no longer reliable.

- 3.2** The replacement vehicle being considered is a Ford 17 seater which would enable the two back seats to be removed for use as a wheelchair hoist, and for the vehicle to have a side entry sliding door with a hydraulic folding step. Estimates range from £31,500 - £37,500 excluding VAT.
- 3.3** Clydebank Group Holiday Project has requested that it be permitted to use the minibus which has been valued as being worth in the region of £500 at auction, as part exchange towards the purchase of a new minibus.

4.1 Personnel Implications

- 4.1** There are no personnel implications.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1** The financial implication for the Council is to write off as an asset the present minibus which has been valued in the region of £500.
- 5.2** West Dunbartonshire Council has given no financial assistance towards the running of the vehicle in the last four years.
- 5.3** Clydebank Group Holiday Project intends to seek Lottery Funding.

6. Conclusions

- 6.1** There is no evidence to suggest that there is demand for a Community Council to be re-established in the Linnvale and Drumry area and therefore no question of the minibus having to be returned to the Community Council as an asset.
- 6.2** Clydebank Group Holiday Project is the only Group to have expressed an interest in being responsible for the vehicle to the benefit of local groups in the Clydebank area and should therefore be encouraged in this venture.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1** It is recommended that Clydebank Group Holiday Project be permitted to use the Linnvale/Drumry Community Minibus as part exchange towards the purchase of a new minibus.

David McMillan
Chief Executive
Date: 2 November 2006

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Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: Linnvale/Drumry