

REPORT TO:	HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 7
DATE OF MEETING:	17 NOVEMBER 2022	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	STRATEGIC DIRECTOR (CORPORATE RESOURCES)	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	SALLY HEMSLEY, COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP OFFICER TEL: 07799 049615 sally.hemsley@southderbyshire.gov.uk	DOC:
SUBJECT:	REPURPOSING OF SHOPMOBILITY GRANT TO SOUTH DERBYSHIRE CVS	
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: HCS07

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 To consider the proposal (attached as Appendix 1) from South Derbyshire CVS to repurpose the Shopmobility Service into a wider, more inclusive accessible community transport service.
- 1.2 That the Committee accepts the proposal in order that a new Service Level Agreement can be drawn up and the 2022/23 grant of £12,123 (previously paid to South Derbyshire CVS to operate the Shopmobility service) can be paid to support the delivery of the widened accessible community transport service on a trial basis for a year.
- 1.3 That the Committee decides whether a limited Mobility Scooter Service should be retained on a trial basis as part of the repurposed Shopmobility proposal.
- 1.4 That consideration is given to the request from South Derbyshire CVS for secure storage for one mobility scooter at the Council Offices or other suitable Council premises in Swadlincote town center (If there is a desire from Committee for South Derbyshire CVS to continue with a limited Mobility Scooter service).

2.0 Purpose of the Report

- 2.1 To provide the Committee with sufficient information on which a decision can be made to accept South Derbyshire CVS's proposal to repurpose the Shopmobility Service (and hence the supporting grant from the Council) into a wider, more inclusive accessible community transport service

- 2.2 To outline the main aim of the proposal (attached in full as Appendix 1) which is to help people to shop and access services in Swadlincote independently, especially older people and those with disabilities.

3.0 Executive Summary

- 3.1 The main aim of the proposal (attached in full as Appendix 1) is to help people to shop and access services in Swadlincote independently, especially older people and those with disabilities using an accessible vehicle owned by Swadlincote Community Transport at times when the vehicle is not currently being used. This widened service would be operated by South Derbyshire CVS through a Service Level Agreement with the Council and supported by the annual grant previously provided to CVS from the Council for the Shopmobility service.

4.0 Detail

- 4.1 Some years ago, South Derbyshire CVS (SDCVS) became the beneficiaries of five battery powered mobility scooters and a range of wheelchairs from Shopmobility when the organisation ceased to exist. A Service Level Agreement (SLA) is in place between South Derbyshire District Council and SDCVS in which an annual grant enables SDCVS to manage the arrangements to hire these out free of charge to local residents and maintain and insure the equipment.
- 4.2 Due to a declining demand for the mobility scooter hire service and changing trends in the demand for accessible transport evidenced by research carried out by SDCVS, it is being proposed that the offer is widened and improved to add value and make it more inclusive. It has been agreed between the Community Partnership Officer and Roger Moors, CEO of SDCVS that the 2022/23 SLA payment of £12,123 will not be made until the proposal for a repurposed Shopmobility Service (and hence the grant provided by SDDC to support it) has been accepted by The Council.
- 4.3 The main aim of the proposal (attached in full as Appendix 1) is to help people to shop and access services in Swadlincote independently, especially older people and those with disabilities.
- 4.4 SDCVS are proposing to offer a weekly flexible responsive transport solution for registered residents of Swadlincote and surrounding areas to improve accessibility to the town centre. The service, which would operate on one day a week between 10.30am and 2.30pm, will pick up residents from their own doorstep and be provided in liaison with Swadlincote Community Transport using their wheelchair accessible minibus when not in use by the organisation. The service will complement the existing community transport provision and will operate along the same lines. SDCVS already have clients supported through their other projects, who they feel would benefit from using the widened service. The pick-up and drop off times would be arranged according to clients' needs, as would the length of time in the town centre.
- 4.5 SDCVS have indicated that if suitable storage could be found, they would keep one mobility scooter available to book on a first come-first served basis so that a minimal scooter hire service could still be provided alongside the accessible minibus service, at least initially to monitor demand going forward. Any additional demand would be referred to the commercial provider in Swadlincote, Forever Mobility.

- 4.6 SDCVS have asked if the Council would have secure storage facilities for the mobility scooter in Swadlincote town centre as there are no suitable secure storage facilities at “The Hive”, SDCVS’s new premises. SDCVS staff/volunteers would still manage the scooter hire arrangements.
- 4.7 SDCVS are proposing to sell the mobility scooters and wheelchairs which are excess to requirements.

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 The annual grant of £12,123 falls within existing council budgets and there will be no change to the level of grant.

6.0 Corporate Implications

Employment Implications

- 6.1 There are no employment implications for the Council.

Legal Implications

- 6.2 The Service Level Agreement will ensure that all required insurances and cover for any liabilities connected with the proposal will be in place.

Corporate Plan Implications

- 6.3 The repurposed Shopmobility proposal from SDCVS meets the “Our People” priority in the Council’s Corporate Plan 2020-24, “Working with Communities and meeting the future needs of the district”.

Risk Impact

- 6.4 Any risks associated with the operation of the accessible community transport service will be identified and managed through the Service Level Agreement.

7.0 Community Impact

Consultation

- 7.1 Research has been carried out by SDCVS which evidences the changing needs and demand in relation to accessible community transport solutions in the Swadlincote area.

Equality and Diversity Impact

- 7.2 The proposal from SDCVS is based on providing an inclusive, accessible community transport solution to meet a wider range of needs.

Social Value Impact

- 7.3 This proposal will have a positive impact in terms of social value. It will help improve health and wellbeing by supporting people to independently access the services they

need and help reduce social isolation. It has the potential to help change for the better some aspects of people's lives which they will value.

Environmental Sustainability

- 7.4 The proposal is based on providing an accessible community public transport scheme, lessening the need for travel in individual private cars or taxis.

8.0 Conclusions

- 8.1 Considering research undertaken by South Derbyshire CVS and the declining usage of the current Shopmobility arrangement, a new accessible more inclusive community transport solution for getting people into Swadlincote to access independently the services and facilities they need should be trialled by South Derbyshire CVS.
- 8.2 The current annual grant of £12,123 provided by South Derbyshire District Council should now be used to support the trial of the new accessible more inclusive community transport solution which will be reviewed on an annual basis.

9.0 Background Papers

Appendix 1: CVS Shopmobility SLA Proposal Oct 2022