

SUBJECT:	<i>SLA funding for Voluntary sector (Chiltern Dial a Ride)</i>
RELEVANT MEMBER:	<i>Portfolio Holder for Healthy Communities</i>
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	<i>Head of Healthy Communities</i>
REPORT AUTHOR	<i>Martin Holt, , 01494732055 martin.holt@chilternandsouthbucks.gov.uk</i>
WARD/S AFFECTED	<i>'Not Ward Specific';</i>

1. Purpose of Report

To agree a community grant award of £20,200 per annum for a three year period, subject to a signed service level agreement with Chilterns Dial a Ride to provide transportation for vulnerable persons.

RECOMMENDATION TO CABINET

- 1. To agree community grant funding of £20,200 per annum for the period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2022, subject to a signed service level agreement with Chilterns Dial a Ride to provide access to transport by vulnerable persons**

2. Reasons for Recommendations

To support the provision of transport services for use by vulnerable persons in Chiltern District.

3. Content of Report

3.1 Chilterns Dial a Ride (CDAR) currently receives annual grant funding of £20,200 to support the service deliver accessible transport for vulnerable persons in Chiltern District.

3.2 Following the appointment of its board in 2015, rebranding and the development of its business plan, the organisation has flourished and is now delivering services through volunteer drivers, including weekend trips, shopping trips and school contracts, as well as hospital transport schemes.

3.3 The organisation is now in a surplus position and since 1st April 2015 has extended its delivery to include the Wycombe District Council area, for which a separate funding agreement is in place.

3.4 CDAR is a registered charity (no. 1161606) that plays a very valuable role in helping enable social contact in the community by providing a door to door transport service for people who due to age, illness or disability are not able to use their own or public transport. Not only does this facilitate social contact, but it helps these vulnerable people maintain a level of independence.

3.5 CDAR supports 243 members access transport in the Chiltern District using a fleet of 9 bespoke minibuses, all of which have wheelchair access, with a team of dedicated drivers. All drivers are fully trained. Currently 8 drivers are part time paid and 19 are volunteers. They undertake around 12,000 passenger journeys per annum of which on the last count 5,805 were for Chiltern District residents. Besides individuals using CDAR, there has been a steady increase in group trips for care homes and local community groups with currently 2 or more a month from Chiltern District. CDAR has launched a new initiative called "Enabling Social Contact", which has started gathering momentum and which will continuing to be developed over the coming year.

3.6 Over the last 12 months, volunteers worked for 5,802 hours of their time for CDAR - 4,186 by volunteer drivers and 1,656 by the volunteer Chairman and Treasurer. CDAR are looking at ways to express this in terms of Social Value and/or Value for Money. But apart from the intrinsic value of the service that CDAR provides, as detailed in the case study in Appendix 1 this is an important factor in assessing the return on grant investment by local authorities and equates to a contribution of £3.40 per volunteer hour. In support of the continued grant funding CDAR have submitted the following information:

3.7" CDAR is run using a sound business model, with a tightly knit team, competent operations personnel and astute financial management. It is still dependent on grant support from local government, including the vital contribution from Chiltern District Council. But CDAR is not resting on its laurels, and continues to have a good record of raising very necessary additional funds from elsewhere. An outstanding example this financial year (2018/19) is that we have raised funds for two larger minibuses (replacing two aging veterans), with the second being delivered just before Christmas (total capital value £65,000).

3.8 However, whilst fund raising for capital projects like new minibuses has been especially successful, fund raising for running costs is always the greater challenge, principally because the donations thus received are mostly small sums. This underlines the great value to CDAR of the local government grants including the grant from CDC (currently £20,200 per annum).

3.9 The CDAR budget for this financial year 2018/19 is:

Total income	£232,526
Total costs	£217,631
Operating outcome	£ 14,895

Overall outcome - £ 13,030 (due to asset depreciation)

3.10 *The income of £232,526 is made up of the following main elements:*

<i>BCC</i>	<i>£53,356</i>
<i>BCC Social Care</i>	<i>£6524</i>
<i>BSOG</i>	<i>£6,000</i>
<i>CDC</i>	<i>£20200</i>
<i>WDC</i>	<i>£23,500</i>
<i>Total Local Gov</i>	<i>£109,500 (47% of total income)</i>

<i>Fares/trips income</i>	<i>£90,000 (39%)</i>
<i>Fund raising</i>	<i>£19,900 (8.5%)</i>

3.11 *In summary, CDAR is a charity that is well run and continues to provide a very valuable and much appreciated service to the local community where it operates. We continue to rely on local government funding. We appreciate that because Local Government continues to have to run a tight ship, it is not in a position to increase its annual grant, but we ask that Chiltern District at least maintains it. We know that if the local government grants are indeed at least maintained (if not increased), we will be faced with inevitable cost increases because of inflation etc., and this is why we are devoting so much effort to additional fund raising to cover our costs”.*

3.12 The Bucks Compact identifies that 12 weeks’ notice of funding reductions should be given and that any decision to end funding should be notified 12 months in advance. Dial a Ride has not been notified of any reductions of its funding and members have previously been supportive of the services this organisation provides to the most vulnerable in our community.

3.13 The implementation of a new unitary District Council in 2020 will involve setting up new arrangements for the award of community grants. This could create some uncertainty over funding for key voluntary organisation such as CDAR in the medium term and making a three year funding award reduces the risk to their cash flow. It also allows for the budgetary provision to be transferred to the new Council and any decisions made by the new Council in respect of grant funding can then be managed in a timely fashion.

4. Consultation

Not Applicable

5. Options (if any)

- 5.1.1. To award three year funding at £20,200 per annum
- 5.1.2. To award funding for a shorter period e.g. 2019/20
- 5.1.3. To discontinue funding a grant award to CDAR.

6. Corporate Implications

7.1 Financial – the current proposal of £20,200 is taken in to account as part of the 2019/20 budget setting process.

7.2 Legal – if funding were to change the council would be required to assess the impact on vulnerable individuals as part of an equalities impact assessment. The funding award will transfer to the new unitary District Council from 1 April 2020 under the Local Government (Structural Changes) (Transitional Arrangements) Regulations 2008.

8. Links to Council Policy Objectives

8.1 This proposal supports the Councils objectives in relation to working to support healthier and safer local communities

9. Next Steps

A service level agreement would be entered into with CDAR.

Background Papers:	None other than those referred to in this report.
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