

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive Member for Leisure and Community for Decision 19 March 2018

Portfolio:	Leisure and Community
Subject:	Shopmobility Funding 2018/19
Report of:	Head of Leisure and Corporate Services
Corporate Priority:	Strong, Safe, Inclusive and Healthy Communities

Purpose:

This report seeks approval for Fareham Shopmobility to be awarded funding for a further year, commencing 1 April 2018.

Executive Summary:

The Shopmobility service provides manual and electric wheelchairs and mobility scooters to people with limited mobility, enabling them to access the Town Centre to shop independently.

Approval is being sought for a further one year agreement with funding of £14,700 to help provide this service in Fareham.

Recommendation:

That approval is given for the Council to enter into a one-year agreement with Communities First Wessex to deliver a Shopmobility service in Fareham.

Reason:

To enable residents with mobility difficulties to remain independent.

Cost of Proposals:

The cost of this proposal is £14,700, which can be met from the Leisure and Community revenue budget

Risk Assessment:

There are no risks associated with this proposal.

- Appendices:**
- A:** Service Level Agreement between Community First Wessex and Fareham Borough Council for the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019
 - B:** Copy of Fareham Shopmobility Accounts for the period. 2016/17
 - C:** Monitoring Report from April to November 2017

Reference papers: None

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Executive Briefing Paper

Date:	19 March 2018
Subject:	Shopmobility Funding 2018/19
Briefing by:	Head of Leisure and Corporate Services
Portfolio:	Leisure and Community

INTRODUCTION

1. This report seeks approval for the Council to enter into a new agreement with Community First Wessex to provide a Shopmobility Service in Fareham. A service that enables residents with mobility difficulties to remain independent.
2. Shopmobility is currently provided by Community Action Fareham. However, on the 1 April 2018 Community Action Fareham will merge with the charity Communities First Wessex, who also provide similar services in Havant, East Hants and Winchester. Community First Wessex will therefore take on the delivering of Shopmobility in Fareham.
3. Fareham Shopmobility provides a professional equipment hire service to those with mobility difficulties, with the aim to help increase independence, freedom and self-esteem. It also allows inclusivity and accessibility to those with short-term or lifelong conditions.
4. The service situated within the basement of the Osbourne Road multi-storey car park, next to Fareham Shopping Centre which offers good access to the town's facilities. The service operates Monday to Saturday from 9.00am to 4.30pm.
5. Shopmobility has one full-time paid member of staff and another that works 15 hours per week. In addition, the service has 15 volunteers who help with the day to day running of service. Including scooter repairs, valeting, customer enquiries and fundraising.

PROPOSAL

6. In addition to the imminent merger of the two charities, the reduction in funding available from Hampshire County Council is also resulting in changes to the organisations and the models for providing voluntary and community support. It would be prudent to allow some time for things to settle down, before a review of all the funding, provided by the Council to different voluntary organisations is carried out.
7. The proposal is for the Council to provide funding of £14,700 for a further year, to Community First Wessex for the delivery of a Shopmobility service in Fareham for the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019.
8. The estimated cost per annum to run the service is £51,000, with a large proportion of income that is generated coming from memberships, daily hire charges and fundraising. A copy of Shopmobility's annual accounts is contained in Appendix B.
9. Shopmobility will continue to be responsible for the purchasing of additional equipment from funds raised. All hired equipment is to be maintained, serviced and charged to present safe and reliable service, in accordance with statutory requirements.
10. The funding from Fareham Borough Council helps to subsidise the operation of this service and to keep the hire charges to a level that makes the service accessible.

LOCAL DEMAND

11. Fareham Shopmobility is one of the most used in Hampshire, though similar to Basingstoke. In 2016/17 over 5700 people accessed the service, with 474 having renewed or taken out an annual membership.
12. The scheme has a total of 81 scooters and wheelchairs for hire. The most popular being the Shoprider basic scooter.
13. A survey carried out by Shopmobility in June 2017 identified that 43% of its customers would not visit the Town Centre if there was no Shopmobility service.
14. Shopmobility customers include;
 - People with permanent or temporary walking difficulties
 - People with a disabling illness
 - People with heart or lung diseases
 - Heavily pregnant women

- Older residents or visitors
- People recovering from a disabling illness or injury
- People who are affected by conditions (such as multiple sclerosis) that can make walking more difficult

RISK ASSESSMENT

15. There are no risks associated with this proposal

FININCIAL IMPLICATIONS

16. The Service Level Agreement would provide Community First Wessex with funding for a further one year to help with the delivery of Shopmobility, commencing on 1 April 2018.
17. Payment would be released upon the signing of the Service Level Agreement (marked Appendix A). Furthermore, at six monthly intervals, Shopmobility will provide the Leisure and Community Manager with statistical information detailing the services provided, usage stats and income generated. A copy of the latest report (for the period April 2017 to November 2017) is contained in Appendix C.
18. The cost of this proposal is £14,700, which can be met from the Leisure and Community revenue budget.

CONCLUSION

19. The Shopmobility service provides manual and electric wheelchairs and mobility scooters to people with limited mobility. Enabling them to access the Town Centre and to shop independently.
20. The provision of funding for a further year will help to subsidise the operation of the service and to keep the hire charges to a level that makes the service accessible and affordable.

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Emma Watts, Leisure and Community Manager (Ext. 4440)