

CDM COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Background

CDM Community Transport (CDM) was established in 2013 as a result of the merger of Cookstown Rural Community Transport and Dungannon and District Community Transport.

CDM Community Transport is a company limited by guarantee with charitable status that has been established to provide the transport services, previously carried on by two organisations in Cookstown and Dungannon. The new company will also act as lead body to administer DFI funding to the existing Magherafelt organisation - Out and About Community Transport.

CDM Community Transport operates on a 10b permit. Only registered members can avail of the transport services.

Structure, governance and management

The organisation is a company limited by guarantee and does not have share capital. The company is a registered charity with the NI Charities Commission from the 15 December 2015 (charity number: NIC 103418).

The company was established under a Memorandum and Articles of Association, which established the objects and powers of the charitable company, and is governed under its Articles of Association.

CDM Community Transport has a cross-community focus and is managed by the trustees who are elected annually and representatives must be elected from both council areas.

The appointment of trustees is in accordance with the charity's Articles of Association, whereby each member will be entitled to nominate one person only in writing not less than seven days before the date of the Annual General Meeting.

The trustees (who are also the directors for the purposes of company law) who served during the year were:

W Mayne MBE
F Burton
L Hughes
M O'Neill MBE
S Donnelly
M Farquhar
B Scullion

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Objectives and activities

The objects and activities of the charity are:

1. To provide safe, accessible door-to-door transport to members, especially the most disadvantaged members living in the rural areas of Mid Ulster:
 - providing an accessible vehicle which can collect people from their homes and take them to the required destination
 - training drivers to the MiDAS standard in order to provide a quality service
 - raising the profile of CDM Community Transport in various hamlets and villages in the Mid Ulster Area in an effort to increase participation in the project
 - ensuring that staff who deal with disabled members are trained in Customer Care and Passenger Assistance
 - utilising the most cost-effective vehicle in the provision of demand led rural transport services
 - making the small vehicle available to families who have a disabled family member.
2. To provide a door-to-door service to members living in rural areas where there is little or no other form of suitable transport available:
 - increasing the database of volunteer drivers who are willing to give up their spare time for the benefit of others
 - provide disability awareness training and First Aid to suitable volunteers
 - raising awareness, especially in rural villages and hamlets
 - co-ordinating volunteer availability with demand in specific areas of the district
 - providing regular support, training and information for volunteer drivers
 - liaising with other community and voluntary activists in service provision to disadvantaged groups and individuals.
3. Increase the efficiency and effectiveness of local transport resources with a one-stop-shop:
 - providing information and advice to members on various suitable modes of transport
 - building up relationships with private operators and taxi owners in the district
 - working collectively with Northern Ireland's wider network of Rural Community Transport Partnerships to lobby and advocate for change on issues affecting the Community Transport sector.
 - providing a feeder service to the Public Transport
 - providing information on training available to other voluntary organisations, especially those who operate their own transport.
- 4.CDM Community Transport have been providing Disability Action Services from April 2013.

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Achievements and performance

The company has during the year endeavoured:

- to provide Dial a lift services to registered members living in rural areas of Mid Ulster who have no access to public transport,
- to provide free or ½ fare travel to members who have a verified smartpass,
- to continue to provide group hire on either a 'with' or 'without driver' basis,

At present CDM Community Transport have 339 group memberships, 1,450 individual members and 362 DAT members.

The directors confirm that the RTF and ARTS grant has been used solely for the purposes intended and in accordance with the terms and conditions of grant.

Motability Foundation Funding

CDM along with three Rural Community Transport Project Partners (Easilink Community Transport, Fermanagh Community Transport and North Coast Community Transport) were successful in securing £3.42 million of funding over a 3 year period from the Motability Foundation through their 'Community Transport Grant Programme.

The project will increase the quality of life for people living with disabilities, mobility issues and the elderly, by providing improved transport options across each respective area. The programme consists of 4 key strands: delivery of passenger trips to disability centred groups; investment in a fleet of 23 fit for purpose accessible mini-buses; a driver training and employment programme; and the establishment of a scheme to provide transport to regional hospital and health appointments.

Dormant Funds – Moving Forward Project

We have also been successful in our application to Dormant Funds to support for 2 years the development of a new 3 year Strategic Plan and some associated work around governance, updated HR policy work as well as an opportunity to strengthen skills of the existing workforce.

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Financial Review

The results for the year are set out on page 7. These and the financial position at the year end were considered satisfactory by the trustees. Additional sources of funding were received in this financial year, from Dormant Accounts NI and from Motability.

The trustees will conduct annual reviews of the appropriate level of unrestricted reserves. The purpose of this reserve is to provide stability for the charity to ensure that it is able to honour existing contractual obligations, to upgrade existing capital equipment, to cover unforeseen events beyond the company's control and to enable it to continue its operations in the unlikely event of a significant fluctuation in expenditure or income. The board has an ongoing programme of capital replacement due to high maintenance and running costs.

The committee aim to build reserves of 3 to 6 months of annual expenditure, to meet financial commitments, to meet capital repayments for vehicles purchased on Hire Purchase and also to build in a provision for redundancy for all staff in the unlikely event that funding would cease. The committee currently estimate the provision for redundancy to be £72,630. This may be achieved by increasing earned income or reducing expenditure. The present level of reserves available to the charity is £235,931 and this is considered satisfactory. Of this amount, £131,787 is held in cash at bank and in hand.

Auditor

David Lyttle + Co Ltd were appointed auditor to the company and in accordance with section 485 of the Companies Act 2006, a resolution proposing that they be re-appointed will be put at a General Meeting.

Statement of disclosure to auditor

So far as the trustees are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor are unaware. Additionally, the trustees have taken all the necessary steps that trustees ought to have taken as trustee in order to make themselves aware of all relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

On behalf of the board



W Mayne MBE

Trustee

27 June 2024