

**Community
Transport
Association**

**Cymdeithas
Cludiant
Cymunedol**

Additional Funding for Vital Community Transport Services in Mid Wales

The Community Transport Association (CTA Wales), working in partnership with TraCC, the local authority Regional Transport Consortium for Mid Wales, and the Ceredigion and Powys Associations of Voluntary Organisations, has been successful in ensuring that £100,000 of additional funding will be made available to local community transport operators in Mid Wales during 2010-11.

The money forms part of the capital funding settlement made available by the Welsh Assembly Government to improve integrated and accessible transport in Mid Wales and is in support of the bid made by TraCC in its Regional Transport Plan (RTP).

The Community Transport Capital Enhancement Grant will be made available to operators on a 75% funding rate in this first year, and will be available for the purchase of new or second hand vehicles, vehicle adaptations, transport software and other capital items. Operators must be able to demonstrate that they are running schemes of community and social benefit on a not-for-profit basis, on a section 19 or 22 permit and which support the aims and objectives of the TraCC RTP and Assembly Government National Transport Plan.

Application forms and guidance notes are available from CAVO, PAVO, and Cyngor Gwynedd (for Meirionydd based operators only), and should be returned by 31 May.

Betsan Caldwell, CTA Director for Wales said "I am very pleased that TraCC's Regional Transport Plan recognises the important role of CT in the area and has agreed to provide much needed capital funding for CT operators in Mid Wales. CTA Wales has been working with all four Consortia across Wales over the last few years to try to ensure that similar funding will be available in the other regions as well."

Chris Wilson, TraCC Co-ordinator added "The three Mid Wales local authorities continue to recognise the important role that Community Transport can fulfil alongside more conventional passenger transport services in rural parts of Wales. This is necessary to improve sustainable access to vital services and opportunities for all. TraCC is very pleased to be able to offer this additional funding and to work in partnership with the CTA Wales and voluntary sector."

CT Officers Rod Bowen in CAVO, Sarah Leyland-Jones in PAVO and Malcolm Cowtan in Cyngor Gwynedd will be providing support to potential applicants in their respective areas, to ensure that local bids are eligible and align with the vision of the

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TraCC RTP. Operators should contact one of these organisations for assistance in the first instance.

- ENDS -

Notes for Editors:

- Voluntary and community transport exists to meet the travel and social needs of people to whom these would otherwise be denied because of age, disability, location etc. It provides accessible and affordable transport to achieve social inclusion.
- The CTA is a rapidly growing UK wide charity giving voice and providing leadership, learning and enterprise support to member organisations across the third sector delivering innovative and flexible transport solutions to achieve social change.
- The CTA promotes excellence through providing training, publications, advice, events and project support on voluntary, community and accessible transport.
- CTA Wales has offices in Swansea and Rhyl. It is supported by the Welsh Assembly Government as “the voice of community transport in Wales”.
- Trafnidiaeth Canolbarth Cymru (TraCC) is the Regional Transport Consortium for Mid Wales
- It is a voluntary partnership between Ceredigion, Gwynedd and Powys local authorities.
- The TraCC Regional Transport Plan (RTP) was submitted to the Welsh Assembly Government in September 2009 and approved by the Minister for Economy and Transport in December 2009. The Capital Programme for 2010/11 was approved in March 2010.
- More information is available on the TraCC website: www.tracc.govc.uk.

For further information please contact Betsan Caldwell on 01792 844290 or betsan@ctauk.org or Chris Wilson on 01970 633431 or chris.wilson@tracc.gov.uk.