

Dear Community Councillor,

I've been asked by colleagues in the Council to highlight the information below regarding funding which is available in view of the difficulties that some residents of Argyll and Bute will face in looking at accessible travel methods.

I've also been asked to remind you of the Democracy Matters Community Engagement Fund (mentioned in the most recent fortnightly CPP Bulletin hosted on the Council [website](#)). If you don't automatically receive this and would like me to pass your details onto our Community Planning Team then please let me know. It's useful to subscribe as you will then receive an email alert when they've published the most recent edition.

In addition, there is a monthly funding bulletin issued by the Council's Social Enterprise Team. Again, if you have not already signed up for this I would encourage you to do so. You can apply to receive the bulletin by completing some contact information on the website here - <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/forms/note-interest-form>

Kind Regards
Melissa

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1st fund;

[The Scottish Government's Accessible Travel Framework](#) was published in September 2016. Disabled people have absolute rights to live a life of equal opportunities. The ability to travel is an important enabler to access those opportunities.

The purpose of Framework is to:

- Support disabled people's rights by removing barriers and improving access to travel and;
- Ensure disabled people are fully involved in work to improve all aspects of travel.

Improving inclusive and accessible travel in Scotland

A new **one year fund** to support the objectives of Accessible and active Travel has been announced. Local authorities, transport operators, regional transport partnerships and other organisations can apply to the £300k fund for 2018/2019.

The purpose of the fund is to improve the accessibility of door to door journeys across all modes of transport to enhance the travelling experience of disabled people and others facing mobility or access challenges, including passengers that have hidden impairments. From training to infrastructure improvements, this fund will consider part or whole funding of projects which support the central vision outlined in the Accessible Travel Framework – that all disabled people can travel with the same freedom, choice and dignity and opportunity as other citizens.

This reflects the Scottish Government's commitment to equality and inclusiveness which extends to our entire transport network.

The Framework is a national vision which outlines outcomes for accessible travel. It is both an ambition and a commitment on our part to go beyond what the law says we must do, to help ensure we do all we can to make travel more accessible for disabled people.

The Framework refers throughout, mainly to travel rather than transport, because the issues disabled people told us about include more than just getting access to transport - it is about travel information, getting to transport, facilities around transport, people's attitudes and going between different modes of transport.

What can the fund be used for?

The Fund is there to support projects that go beyond regulatory requirements.

In terms of eligibility, we want this to be as open as possible to include 'technical' improvements but also staff training and possibly practical studies (of the type that would lead directly to practical implementation projects). There must be a clear link into **active and sustainable travel**. Particularly in areas such as sustainable communities, the built environment and encouraging multi-modal travel. For example, making areas more accessible through clear pathways and improved accessible signage, improved infrastructure facilities that are beneficial to all members of the community and fully accessible and safe for all, and therefore encourage the public to make more active travel choices.

The Fund can also cover proposals developed in partnership with other transport and infrastructure providers to facilitate integration with other modes and a seamless journey for disabled people.

What is not included:

- Any applications for retrospective projects.
- It is not intended to fund repairs or maintenance.

How can you make an application to the Fund?

The aim is to have simple but effective procedures for the application and award of grants whilst ensuring value for money and propriety in use of public money.

We are keen to ensure that applications reflect the actual needs of disabled users.

We therefore expect evidence of engagement/participation with Local Access panels, disabled persons organisations, user organisations and/or other relevant groups representative of disabled people. This may highlight areas otherwise overlooked that could enhance the service or overall experience by disabled and other customers or visitors with reduced mobility.

Full details of the fund and application packs can be found on the Transport Scotland website: <https://www.transport.gov.scot/our-approach/accessible-transport/accessible-travel-fund>

2nd fund;

Improving inclusive and accessible travel on Scotland's Ferry Services

The Ferries Accessibility Fund was set up in line with a commitment made in "*Scottish Ferry Services: Ferries Plan (2013-2022)*".

It was launched in 2014 regarding retrofitting the enhancement and accessibility of vessels and ports.

This is the fourth round of the fund with £170,000 match funding available.

The purpose of the Ferries Accessible Fund aims to improve the accessibility of ferries and ports and to enhance the ferry travelling experience of disabled people and others facing mobility or access challenges. This includes passengers that have hidden disabilities.

It shares the central vision outlined in the Accessible Travel Framework – that all disabled people can travel with the same freedom, choice and dignity and opportunity as other citizens.

This reflects the Scottish Government's commitment to equality and inclusiveness which extends to our entire transport network.

The Framework is a national vision which outlines outcomes for accessible travel. It is both an ambition and a commitment on our part to go beyond what the law says we must do, to help ensure we do all we can to make travel more accessible for disabled people.

The Framework refers throughout, mainly to travel rather than transport, because the issues disabled people told us about include more than just getting access to transport - it is about travel information, getting to transport, facilities around transport, people's attitudes and going between different modes of transport.

What can the fund be used for?

The Fund is there to support projects that go beyond regulatory requirements.

In terms of eligibility, we want this to be as open as possible to include 'technical' improvements but also staff training and possibly practical studies (of the type that would lead directly to practical implementation projects).

There must be a clear link into **active and sustainable travel and be linked to ferry passage**. Particularly in areas such as sustainable communities, the built environment and encouraging multi-modal travel. For example, making areas more accessible through clear pathways and improved accessible signage, improved infrastructure facilities that are beneficial to all members of the community and fully accessible and safe for all, and therefore encourage the public to make more active travel choices.

The Fund can also cover proposals developed in partnership with other transport and infrastructure providers to facilitate integration with other modes and a seamless journey for disabled people.

What is not included:

- Any applications for retrospective projects.
- It is not intended to fund repairs or maintenance.

How can you make an application to the Fund?

The aim is to have simple but effective procedures for the application and award of grants whilst ensuring value for money and propriety in use of public money.

We are keen to ensure that applications reflect the actual needs of disabled users.

We therefore expect evidence of engagement/participation with Local Access panels, disabled persons organisations, user organisations and/or other relevant groups representative of disabled people. This may highlight areas otherwise overlooked that could enhance the service or overall experience by disabled and other customers or visitors with reduced mobility. Full details of the fund and application packs can be found on the Transport Scotland website: <https://www.transport.gov.scot/our-approach/accessible-transport/ferries-accessible-fund/>.

The deadline for the **Democracy Matters Community Engagement Fund** has been extended to 31st October 2018. The Scottish Government Democracy Matters Community Engagement Fund provides grants of up to £300 (in exceptional circumstances up to £500) to small voluntary organisations and community groups in Scotland to help them run an event with a group of five or more people to discuss what matters to them in relation to democracy.

Groups and voluntary organisations with a turnover of up to £100,000 can apply for a grant to run an event and cover costs such as venue hire, catering, childcare and inclusive communication such as interpreters.

A brief report and evidence of what emerged from the event must be returned directly to the Scottish Government by 30 November 2018. The report can be in a range of formats such as notes from the discussion, a video clip or photographs from flipchart sheets.

To find out more about the fund or to apply, visit: <https://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/funding-and-support/democracy-matters-community-engagement-fund>