

<b>Title of meeting:</b>	Communities and Central Services Decision Meeting
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	04 November 2022
<b>Subject:</b>	Shopmobility
<b>Report by:</b>	Director of Culture, Leisure, and Regulatory Services
<b>Wards affected:</b>	ALL
<b>Key decision:</b>	No
<b>Full Council decision:</b>	No

---

## **1. Purpose of report**

To update the Cabinet Member about the process of bringing the Shopmobility organisation into direct management by Portsmouth City Council in May 2021, as Portsmouth Disability Forum were no longer able to maintain the contract or extend the service offered.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 To extend the opening days by one day therefore operating Monday/Tuesday/Thursday/Friday.
- 2.2 To bring the one part time employee under Portsmouth City Council's employee terms and conditions.

## **3. Background**

- 3.1 There has been a Shopmobility scheme running in Portsmouth for the last 15 years. This was previously managed by Portsmouth Disability Forum (PDF). PDF's Trustees made the decision to close the charity and the contract was handed back to Portsmouth City Council in May 2021. A grant from the Council of £20,000 per year is allocated to manage this service.
- 3.2 Shopmobility centres in the Wessex region form a network making it easier for customers to use Shopmobility facilities in several geographical locations. Once you have joined at one of these centres you will become a member of all participating schemes. Portsmouth Shopmobility scheme is part of this network.
- 3.3 Shopmobility is a scheme that hires out mobility equipment to the public. The equipment is mainly manual wheelchairs, powerchairs and mobility scooters. This can enable people with restricted mobility to enjoy independence outdoors. Customers are also able to access shops and leisure facilities. The aim is to



increase independence, freedom, and self-esteem. It also allows inclusivity and accessibility.

Shopmobility customers include:

- People with permanent or temporary walking/mobility issues.
- People with a disabling illness
- Older residents or visitors
- People recovering from illness or injury

There are issues with storage in some residential accommodation in Portsmouth, and some customers choose to use Shopmobility. For many people hiring is their only option.

- 3.4 Shopmobility currently employs one part time member of staff who was TUPE'd to PCC in May 2021. With the support of "Together in Hive Portsmouth" we undertook a volunteer recruitment drive and have successfully recruited one full time and one part time volunteer and are aiming to recruit more. This allows the service to operate on a Monday Thursday and Friday between 10am and 4pm.
- 3.5 There are presently 188 members registered through our scheme and an additional 10 members registered through the Wessex network. On average there are 15 regular users of the scheme each week. The number of members has grown in the last 12 months from 122.
- 3.6 There is a good inventory level of electric scooters and wheelchairs including one for a child (appendix 2). 3 have reached the end of their usable life and are currently in the process of being decommissioned. They will be used for parts.
- 3.7 No license or insurance is required by the hirer as PCC's public liability insurance covers this activity. Each new user must undertake mandatory training on how to operate the scooter, this takes place at the Shopmobility site and is undertaken by the team.
- 3.8 Hire costs are as follows:
- Membership annual £10.00
  - Daily Hire £5.00
  - Weekly Hire £32.50
- 3.9 PCC has been in consultation with The You Trust to provide a facility for the storage of electric Trikes for Cycling without Age. Their vision is for everyone to have the tools and resources they need for their journey towards the life they want, and their aims are not dissimilar to PCC's Shopmobility.

#### **4. Reasons for recommendations**

- 4.1 When Shopmobility was managed by PDF the facility was open 5 days each week. They were staffed with 1 Manager, 1.5 FTE team members and 2 volunteers. This was prior to the pandemic; however, we have seen a steady increase in those hiring equipment in the past 3 months. The current employee



is on a fixed term contract, and we wish to bring them under Portsmouth City Council standard terms and pension rights

4.2 The additional revenue costs will be: £4,531. This comprises:

Annual salary differential	£3589
Pension differential	£657
National Insurance differential	£285
Total	£4531

## 5. Integrated impact assessment

5.1 Attached as appendix 2

## 6. Legal implications

6.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from the recommendations in this report.

## 7. Director of Finance's comments

The increase in costs will be self-funded from the existing budget, where equipment replacement costs are expected to decrease

.....  
Signed by:

**Stephen Baily Director of Culture, Leisure, and Regulatory Services**

### Appendices:

Appendix 1 Equipment inventory

Appendix 2 Integrated Impact Assessment

### Background list of documents:

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by ..... on .....

.....  
Signed by: