**OFGEM CONSULTATION – RIIO-ED2 DRAFT DETERMINATION – DRAFT DETERMINATIONS SPEN ANNEX**

**COMMUNITY TRANSPORT GLASGOW RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION**

**Background to Community Transport Glasgow**

Community Transport Glasgow (CTG) is a Charity that provides transport solutions to over 75,000 passengers per annum. The organisation was established to provide relief to communities of Glasgow, particularly the East End and West of Glasgow, who are in need due to age, mobility, mental and physical disability, illness and poverty. This is achieved by providing affordable, reliable, accessible transport solutions to the local communities we serve who include older adults, those with mobility issues and disabilities. 75% of the people we transport are over the age of 65 and/or have a disability.

CTG delivers just about every type of transport that community transport operates including, group transport to local voluntary and community groups, a community bus registered timetabled service, a volunteer car scheme enabling people to access health appointments, assisted support for learning school transport and door to door transport solutions - that assists individuals to access local clubs and those over 65 who have had a fall so that they can attend rehabilitation exercise classes as part of the NHS falls prevention programme.

The organisation has an ambitious 5 year strategy with a focus on climate change at the centre of our vision. This vision is to develop a community-centric transport system which is multi-modal, more accessible, less polluting, better co-ordinated, flexible and above all shared. With a major part of this to become the first fully low carbon community transport operator in Scotland.

**Community Transport Glasgow’s Consultation Response – Bespoke UM Proposals**

**Q6. What are you views on our proposals for SPEN’s bespoke Ums?**

We are extremely disappointed with the rejection of the Distribution Net Zero Fund. As a beneficiary of the SPEN Green Economy Fund we believe we can provide quantifiable evidence of why this fund is required and important.

The funding we secured from the SPEN Green Economy Fund was transformational and enabled CTG to move to an electric fleet as part of the organisations move to becoming net zero.

Prior to the funding CTG had a fleet of 16 ageing diesel minibuses some with 300,000 miles on the clock. The funding secured allowed us to purchase a total of 10 fully electric vehicles, 8 minibuses and 2 people carriers, with the majority of the funding coming from the SPEN Green Economy Fund. Today, CTG now has 16 fully electric vehicles in our fleet. This has reduced our carbon footprint by saving over 200 tonnes of CO2 emissions in the last 2 years. This is having a huge impact on reducing CO2 emissions in some of the most socially deprived areas in Scotland, where health inequalities are high.

Moving to an electric fleet has not only secured the vital services we provide to our local communities but has had an environmental impact on these communities through the reduction to Zero tail-pipe CO2 emissions.

The funding CTG received was **truly transformational** because it enabled CTG to be more sustainable and assist in securing the long-term future of the organisation due to the efficiencies achieved from operating an electric fleet. Without the SPEN funding CTG would not have been able to move to an electric fleet as this type of funding to purchase vehicles is extremely scarce in our world.

If we had to continue with the old fleet CTG would have not be here to tell the tale. We would have struggled to continue to provide the transport solutions to our local communities as these vehicles would become unaffordable to operate or replace. This would have meant that the organisation would not have survived meaning that at a time when the requirement and demand of Community Transport solutions are increasing, particularly with an ageing population, we would have had to reduce the amount of transport services having an impact on the 75,000 passengers who rely on our services

As the UK moves to Net Zero funding such as this from SPEN will play an increasingly important part in enabling communities, particularly those operating in the Third Sector, to transition to Net Zero. There is not enough funding to support the Third Sector to transition. As with the SP Energy Network Green Economy Fund a fund like the Distribution Net Zero Fund will assisted organisations who support communities in Scotland to start to address Net Zero through a number of low carbon projects.

Therefore, CTG would request that you reconsider your initial decision to refuse the Distribution Net Zero Fund.

**Graham Dunn**

**Manager**

**Community Transport Glasgow**