**COALFIELD COMMUNITY TRANSPORT**

**About Coalfield Community Transport**

Coalfield Community Transport was established in 2002 and provides a range of transport related services across East Ayrshire to meet the diverse needs of its residents.

As well as providing community and voluntary groups with access to affordable and accessible transport to allow them to participate in community activities, Coalfield Community Transport works to improve access to services and jobs.

Coalfield Community Transport currently operates a fleet of 18 vehicles, the majority with full accessibility for people with disabilities, and provides employment for 15 people.

With a distinctive identity which is recognised locally and nationally, this popular and much needed transport service is making a positive impact in communities across East Ayrshire.

**Our Mission**

*“To provide accessible, affordable and appropriate transport solutions for eligible groups and socially or economically disadvantaged individuals in East Ayrshire with the aim of encouraging greater community participation and social inclusion.”*

**Our Services**

Coalfield Community Transport provides a wide range of transport related services for community and voluntary groups and residents who are frail, elderly, have a disability, live in a rural area without access to their own transport or are unable to access public transport.

* **Group Transport** - Coalfield Community Transport operates its services under a Section 19 Minibus permit and has a membership scheme for eligible groups. Over 150 groups from across East Ayrshire currently use this service regularly to attend meetings and excursions, with over 200 MiDAS (Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme) trained volunteer drivers.
* **Dayhopper and Awayhopper Services** - The ‘Dayhopper’ service provides a shopping and excursion service for vulnerable people, and enable individuals who would not normally travel because of cost and accessibility issues to travel outwith the local area. The club has over 350 members and operates five days a week.

An ‘Awayhopper’ service offers the opportunity for members to take affordable short breaks.

* **Social Care Transport** - Coalfield Community Transport operates social care contracts on behalf of East Ayrshire Council, transporting older residents to and from day care facilities across East Ayrshire.
* **Early Years’ Service** - Delivered on behalf of East Ayrshire Council, transport services are provided for vulnerable young children who attend Early Years Childhood Centres.
* **Cumnock Connector** - This is a demand responsive service, funded by Strathclyde Partnership for Transport, providing access to a range of services for vulnerable residents who have difficulty accessing public transport.
* **Training and Development** - MiDAS training and refresher training is provided for all volunteer drivers and escorts, with a range of further training courses being developed to enhance current provision.

Coalfield Community Transport was the first community transport operator in South West Scotland to be accredited to the South West Scotland CT Quality Network 2013 and was sponsored by Strathclyde Partnership for Transport to establish a quality standard for community transport groups in the area.

**Management Structure**

Coalfield Community Transport is managed by a voluntary Board of Trustees, which meets on a monthly basis and receives regular reports on operations and finance. The Board sets the strategic direction and reviews progress at its meetings.

The Manager has responsibility for ensuring the implementation of the strategy and reporting to the Board, and the overall management of the service, including finance, marketing, legal, operations, training, development activities and fund raising, and its employees.

An Operations Officer has been appointed to oversee the day to day operation of the service, who reports to the Manager.

**Premises**

Centrally located premises provide a visible presence, office accommodation and training facilities, and space to garage vehicles at Caponacre industrial Estate in Cumnock. In addition, the premises are easily accessible and provide ample parking space for drivers’ own vehicles.

Coalfield Community Transport is a Scottish Charitable Organisation (No. SC032515).

Coalfield Community Transport

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**About East Ayrshire**

East Ayrshire is a desirable part of Scotland in which to live. Situated within easy reach of Glasgow as well as the seaside towns of the west coast. East Ayrshire combines an idyllic mix or rural assets and urban living for those seeking a high quality of life. It is set in the midst of some of Scotland’s finest countryside.

Kilmarnock is the major urban area with a population of around 44,000. The remainder of the population lives in smaller communities ranging from less than a hundred people in small villages and rural areas to around 9,000 people in Cumnock.

**Housing** - East Ayrshire is an excellent choice for anyone wishing to purchase an established property or a new property. Excellent quality housing at affordable prices is available through the area.

**Learning** - Learning in East Ayrshire is a lifelong activity and opportunities for people of all ages area available across the area.

East Ayrshire’s schools have an excellent reputation gaining positive inspection reports and delivering results for their children and young people. There are 9 secondary schools, 42 primary schools and 3 special schools. In addition, there are currently 9 early years’ providers in the private, voluntary and independent sectors.

**Health** - The area is well served by excellent health facilities – GP practice and Health Centre primary care facilities and secondary care facilities in the form of University Hospital Crosshouse in Kilmarnock, East Ayrshire Community Hospital in Cumnock and Kirklandside Community Hospital in Kilmarnock.

**Leisure** - East Ayrshire boasts an excellent range of sporting and leisure activities. Facilities on offer include sports and fitness centres, the first class Galleon Centre offering leisure pool, ice-skating rink, bowling hall, and fitness suite with Visions Centre in Cumnock offering leisure pool and fitness suite. The Ayrshire Athletics Arena in Kilmarnock is set among a sporting environment of athletics, cricket, rugby, judo, gymnastics and football facilities.

There is a multi-screen cinema, arts venues, extensive golfing and all weather tennis facilities. In addition, 450 square miles of countryside and beautiful country parkland provide a place for rambling walks or cycle rides on right of way and national cycle routes. It is also the perfect destination for wildlife lovers.

**Shopping** - Kilmarnock town centre is compact, stylish and accessible with a mix of large stores and speciality shops. Independent retailers throughout East Ayrshire, large and small, traditional and modern, believe in the highest standards of personal service to their customers. Other quality retailers are within easy reach at Glasgow and the rest of Ayrshire.

**Food and Drink** - Eating out in East Ayrshire offers a wide choice of formal and casual dining opportunities, with many establishments making best use of local produce. The area also has strong and traditional links with the food and drinks industry, with whisky, spring water and traditional Scottish foods all produced locally.