

## South West Wiltshire Area Board 13 April 2011

### Chairman's Announcements

#### Proposed changes to bus services

As a result of significant reductions in local authority funding, and the Government's insistence that a high proportion of the savings are achieved in the first year, Wiltshire Council has had to make difficult decisions in setting its budget for the 2011/12 financial year. However, due to efficiency and procurement savings of £850,000 and the use of additional income from car parking to help fund bus services, it has been possible to limit to £600,000 the amount that has to be found from making changes to bus services. This puts us in a much better situation than many of our neighbouring authorities.

The proposed changes have been identified according to the Council's published Guidelines for funding of supported services, which were the subject of recent consultation as part of the third Local Transport Plan. The intention behind the proposals is to minimise the impact on users as far as is possible, by spreading the changes across the county and withdrawing services or journeys where alternatives are available, or which are relatively poorly used or expensive to run per passenger carried.

The main changes affecting the South West Wiltshire Community Area are;

- Service 25 (Hindon, Dinton and Fovant to Wilton / Salisbury) – withdrawal of the early morning journey to Wilton that connects at Wilton for an arrival in Salisbury at 6.58am (several representations have already been received from users of this service who have no alternative transport, and we are investigating whether a lower cost alternative can be arranged)
- Service 26 (Salisbury, Wilton, Fovant and Tisbury to Shaftesbury) – withdrawal of Saturday 'shoppers bus' to Shaftesbury from Fovant, Swallowcliffe, Tisbury and Donhead St Andrew
- Service 80 (Mere – Maiden Bradley – Frome) – withdrawal of Saturday 3.30pm bus from Frome to Maiden Bradley, Kilmington and Mere
- Service r3 (Wilton) – withdrawal of Sunday evening buses after 8.15pm
- Withdrawal of the Connect 2 Wiltshire shared taxi service in the Wyllye Valley

Although we have to make the required saving, we are confident that the proposals represent the best way of achieving this with the minimum of hardship. Nevertheless, we recognise that changing bus services will inevitably have an impact on users, and want to give communities the opportunity to respond if they are aware of particular

difficulties that will result. It may be possible in some cases to fund a limited alternative service, or to help local people develop community transport solutions.

A letter has been sent to all town and parish councils explaining the proposed changes, and asking for feedback. The changes in the South West Wiltshire area will be implemented in July (this has been put back by a month from June), to coincide with other revisions to services in the south of the county, and because of this, responses are requested by 15 April so that there is the opportunity if necessary to investigate alternative provision before the changes are implemented. Replies should be sent to [ian.white@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:ian.white@wiltshire.gov.uk) in the Council's Passenger Transport Unit.