

RECORD OF OFFICER DECISION

APPROVAL FOR TEMPORARY EXTENDED USE OF CONCESSIONARY BUS PASSES

Decision made

To approve the temporary extended use of Concessionary Bus passes issued by Wiltshire Council, to enable travel prior to 9.30am for disabled and age related pass holders.

Made by: Jessica Gibbons, Director for Communities and Neighbourhood

Background

1. As the Director for Communities and Neighbourhood, I am responsible for any matters relating to Passenger Transport in the County of Wiltshire on behalf of Wiltshire Council. The power to make a decision in respect of this matter is delegated to me pursuant to Wiltshire Council's Constitution.

Reason for decision

2. This decision would in other circumstances be taken by the Cabinet. However, in circumstances where the Cabinet is unable to meet to expedite its functions in a timely manner during the COVID-19 pandemic, this decision is being taken in accordance with the power referred to in paragraph 1 above. This decision will be reported to the next meeting of the Cabinet.
3. The government has requested that all English local authorities re instate the use of the pass pre 9.30am, in a bid to support the elderly and disabled in accessing supermarkets before they get too busy during the day. Many supermarkets are opening early and making the first hour of the day exclusively available for the elderly and disabled.
4. The use of public transport before 9.30am by Concessionary bus pass holders has not been possible in Wiltshire since 2015 when this ceased in accordance with Cabinet measures introduced at that time to address austerity. Following the advent of the Coronavirus and the need to support the vulnerable where possible, it is appropriate to re-introduce this provision on a temporary basis. The reduction in local bus schedules and the need for social distancing means that many vulnerable residents will have less opportunities to travel and shop for food and other essential items as well as attending medical appointments. This measure provides additional support to enable people to access goods and services when necessary.
5. The cost of introducing the scheme will be nil, as we will continue to pay concessionary fare levels at the same rate as we did this time last year, when pre 9.30am travel was not permitted.
6. I confirm that in making this decision I have considered the following in line with Wiltshire Council's Constitution: **(Please insert 'Yes' / 'No' / 'Not Applicable' and**

any other comments necessary to evidence the issue identified has been addressed)

Key decision requirements	Yes
Views of relevant cabinet member(s), committee chairman, area board(s)	No
Consideration of the area boards and delegated decision checklist for officers on the issue of when and how to involve local councillors and area boards in decisions about local services	N/A
Implication of any council policy, initiative, strategy or procedure	Yes
Consultation in accordance with requirements and expectations of consultation with the public	No
Range of options available	No
Staffing, financial and legal implications	Not applicable
Risk assessment and equality implications	Yes
Involvement of statutory officers and/or directors	Yes
Regional or national guidance from other bodies	No
The council's constitution	No
This contract is suitable for execution under the e-signature process.	N/A

Conflict of Interest

7. Not applicable

Other options considered

8. To do nothing. This option was not pursued as to do so would be contrary to the council's aims at this time.



Made by:

Jessica Gibbons, Director, Communities and Neighbourhood

Date: 16th April 2020