

SALISBURY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Agenda Item 21 (a)

SPECIAL DELEGATION PROCEDURE

Cllr Sample and
McKeown

For your approval &
return to DSU

COMMITTEE CONCERNED: **Cabinet**

FROM: **Eric Teagle** SERVICE UNIT: **Forward Planning & Transportation**

DATE: 7th January 2009

Concessionary Travel Scheme

Two approaches have been made this year from community transport providers requesting inclusion in the Council's concessionary travel scheme. On 15th January 2008 the Leader of the Council received a letter from Mr Liam Tatton-Bennett, the Community Transport Manager of Community First, seeking inclusion in the concessionary travel scheme for both Community Transport South Wiltshire and the Tisbury and District Community Minibus (Tibus). In response, the Leader indicated to the Chief Executive that he supported the suggestion and believed that the cost, estimated at £11,000 per year, was insignificant in the context of the very large budget set aside for concessionary travel. It was understood that the Deputy Leader and the Portfolio Holder for Transport also supported the proposal.

Subsequently, in April, the Leader received a letter from Vivian Longland, the Honorary Secretary of Tibus, making a similar request specifically in respect of Tibus. The Leader again indicated his support for the proposal.

Against the background of this correspondence and discussions with the Portfolio Holder for Transport, the Head of Forward Planning and Transportation prepared two separate Special Delegation reports, some months apart. The second of these, in respect of Tibus was approved in August 2008. Unfortunately, through an oversight, the report about Community First was unwittingly not progressed. This oversight has only just been discovered and approval to the inclusion of Community Transport South Wiltshire within the scheme from April of this year is now sought.

The extension of the concessionary travel scheme to community transport is supportive of the Council's overall policies on sustainable transport, as any measure designed to increase bus travel is likely to reduce the number of trips made by car. This certainly seems to be the experience on the park and ride services.

The inclusion of Community Transport South Wiltshire within the concessionary travel scheme is discretionary and the Council is likely to incur additional costs of around £11,000 if it accedes to the request. The Cabinet is aware that Government grant towards concessionary travel is insufficient to meet the total cost and expenditure in 2008/2009 is likely to exceed the SDC budget allocation (£1.6 million).

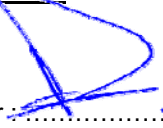

It is recommended that Community Transport South Wiltshire should be included within the concessionary travel scheme, with effect from 1st April 2008.

(Please tick relevant box)

IMPLICATIONS	OFFICER	COMMENTS (incl)	NONE	NOT APPLICABLE
Legal			None	
Financial	CL	In report.		
Personnel				N/A
Environmental			None	

Co-ordinated with _____ Officer (s) _____ Unit (s) _____

APPROVED :

Leader:  Portfolio Holder:  ...

Copy to: Chair & Vice Chairman of relevant Scrutiny Panel