

## Proposed Changes to the Council's Discretionary Assisted Travel Scheme

### Summary of Comments made on the Executive Agenda for 14 April 2009

The Audit and Resources Scrutiny Committee were unhappy that there was potential for this scheme to overlook the most vulnerable people in the community – those unable to use public transport – and felt that more work was required to benefit residents in rural areas. The Committee was also concerned that this may not be a good use of resources, about the potential to go over budget, that the scheme was open to abuse by people passing or selling tokens on, that the Council could potentially lose money by having to pay for tokens upfront, and that there should be a process to adequately monitor take-up of the scheme and those sections of the community which were not catered for. The Committee was keen to ensure that, when receiving its six month review, the Executive had the information available to consider the impact of exclusion from the scheme on disabled urban residents.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee had very strong opinions for and against the implementation of this new scheme.

However, the majority of members on the Committee would like the Executive to re-tender for a scheme which was similar to that previously operated by Racing Club Warwick. The scheme should be modified in light of experience and offer an enhancement to residents in the rural areas, but the scheme should be available to all residents in the District, including those in urban areas. The majority did not support the new scheme which was proposed.

The Committee would also like all Town and Parish Councils to be reminded that they should participate in Warwickshire County Council's consultation on improving the existing bus routes in the District.

A vote was taken on this comment and the result was 6 in favour and 5 against.

### The decision of the Executive was as follows:

#### **RESOLVED** that

- (1) a new assisted travel scheme providing eligible residents with £50.00 or £25.00 travel tokens upon payment of a £5.00 administration charge, be approved;
- (2) the eligibility criteria as set out in Appendices 1 and 2 to the report, be agreed;
- (3) the three year partnership agreement with Racing Club Warwick that ended on 31 March 2009, be noted; and
- (4) the Executive to receive an update report in six months to review the take-up of the scheme.