

## WYVERN COMMUNITY TRANSPORT TRUST – ACCEPTANCE OF TAXI VOUCHERS

### 1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 Members to consider a request from Wyvern Community Transport Trust (WCTT) to accept Taxi Vouchers on the Community Bus.

### 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Wyvern Community Transport Trust is a registered Charity providing transport to those who have difficulty using or accessing conventional forms of public transport.

- 2.2 On 15 November Members of the Policy and Finance Committee considered a five-year agreement with Essex County Council to secure funding for Community Transport in the Rochford District. The agreement saw the provision of transport by two mechanisms:-

- Wyvern Community Transport
- Rochford District Council Taxi Vouchers

- 2.3 Around March 2005 the Council agreed the longer term funding for WCTT and at that time Members were keen to see an expansion of the Taxi Voucher Scheme by vouchers being accepted by WCTT. At that time WCTT was in its infancy and had not gained full charitable status. On the advice of the Head of Service, supported by Members, consideration for the expansion of the scheme was deferred for a six-month review.

- 2.4 At Finance and Procedures, Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Minute 413/05 refers) Members were

“...disappointed to note that the Taxi Voucher Scheme had not yet formally been accepted by Wyvern Community Transport Trust as a number of residents spoke highly of the scheme”.

- 2.5 At the meeting of 15 November Members felt they had insufficient information available to them to properly consider the Essex County Council Partnership Agreement so deferred the item until this meeting. A report appears elsewhere on this agenda.

### 3 PROPOSAL

- 3.1 The Transportation Manager has now concluded negotiations with WCTT and they are prepared to accept Taxi Vouchers with effect from 1 January 2006 on the same account and on a re-imbursement basis as other taxi firms and proprietors. This will have no administrative impact on the Transportation Team.

**4 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 As WCTT will operate their account with the Council on the same basis as existing taxi firms and proprietors there are no financial or resource implications for the Council.
- 4.2 Taxi Voucher users will now have a choice. They can either pre-book their journey with WCTT when the value of their vouchers will take them a little further or call for a taxi, providing immediate response, when the voucher value will purchase the metered journey price.

**5 RECOMMENDATION**

- 5.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES** to have Taxi Vouchers accepted on the WCTT Bus on the same accounting basis as existing taxi firms.

Steve Clarkson

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**Background Papers:-**

Letter from Wyvern CTT

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