

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE – 27 AUGUST 2002**

#### **THISTLE TRAVEL CARD – SCOTLAND**

##### **Report by Director of Development Services**

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform members of the launch on 3 September 2002 of a new travel card, 'Thistle Travel Card'.
- 1.2 This authority has been approached by an ENABLE representative to promote access to the Travel Card and the relevant information leaflet.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 'ENABLE' is one of the largest voluntary organisations in Scotland for people with learning disabilities. The organisation has been working with a consortium group of voluntary organisations consisting of Capability Scotland, Carers Scotland, Downs Syndrome Scotland, Alzheimer Scotland – Action on Dementia, Key Housing Association, People First, National Autistic Society and Fair Deal in 100.
- 2.2 Both ENABLE and the Consortium Group have been focusing on improving access to public transport for persons with varying personal needs. Through this joint effort the Thistle Travel Card scheme has been created that will communicate the special needs of the individual to the transport operator. The initiative is being part funded by the Scottish Executive.

### **3. KEY PRINCIPLES**

- 3.1 The Card Scheme is targeted at people who have difficulty using public transport because of age, disability, illness or they simply lack confidence. It is intended that when the Card is shown to transport staff they will recognise that the holder may need extra help during their journey. The Card will be completed showing the relevant special requirement of that individual e.g. that the person requires to be seated before the vehicle commences its journey, that the passenger needs to be informed of the arrival of their destination or that special equipment like a ramp will need to be operated. In addition to this information there will also be contact details in case of an emergency.
- 3.2 ENABLE has indicated that for the system to work effectively card distribution points will need to be set up within every local authority in Scotland and has enlisted the support of East Ayrshire Council.

- 3.3** Transport providers will be informed of their input in ensuring that a service is given that will facilitate the individual needs of their customers, thereby ensuring that a service is given to all users of that service.
- 3.4** The scheme has been designed to minimize the administrative input by the various governing bodies who will be making the leaflet available within their current information points. A person will simply receive a card attached to an explanatory leaflet; there will be no requirement for a register of people carrying cards, no screening process or eligibility criterion, and no further contact with the distribution point (unless to issue a replacement card).
- 3.5** A sample of the Thistle Travel Card and explanatory leaflet has been placed in the Members' information point.

#### **4 EAST AYRSHIRE'S INVOLVEMENT**

- 4.1** The Roads Division has been in contact with the Head of Leisure and the Head of Social Work who have agreed to make the Thistle Travel Card available at all Council Offices and Libraries.

#### **5. FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1** Nil.

#### **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1** The Committee is requested to note that the Thistle Travel Card will be launched on 3 September 2002 and agree that the leaflet should be made available at Council Offices, Libraries and Social Work Offices.

**Stephen Chorley**  
**Director of Development Services**

12/8/2002  
JDV/YK

#### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**NIL**

For further information on the contents of this report please contact Keith Orton on 01563 576310.

**Implementation officer: Keith Orton.**

**AGENDA**