



 Advancing
 Castle
 Morpeth
 Castle Morpeth Local Strategic Partnership
 Rural Transport Theme Group

**Castle Morpeth
 Taxicard**
 Richard Armitage

Slide 1 


Background

- ◆ **Consultation:**
 - ❖ Rural transport problems highlighted
- ◆ **CM Local Strategic Partnership:**
 - ❖ Rural Transport Theme Group
- ◆ **Focus:**
 - ❖ Rural west of Castle Morpeth borough
 - ❖ 14 parishes

Slide 2 


Door-to-door public transport

- ◆ **Why support taxi journeys?**
 - ❖ Meet the needs of residents unable to use or access bus services...
 - ❖ ...who need additional assistance, in order to sustain their independence
 - ❖ ... who are likely to have mobility impairments or may be very isolated
 - ❖ ... and (for pilot) live in the rural west

Slide 3 


Subsidising taxi travel


- ◆ **Local:**
 - ❖ Parish voucher schemes in Whalton & Ellingham using Countryside Agency £
 - ❖ Wansbeck Council, Cumbria County
- ◆ **Further afield:**
 - ❖ Aberdeen, Basildon, Dumfries & Galloway, Dundee
 - ❖ Milton Keynes: MK Taxicard

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London Taxicard 06/07


Total subsidy	£ 14,500,000
No. of trips	1,250,000
No. of members	77,918
Spend per member	£ 186.09
Subsidy per trip	£ 11.60
Trips per member	16.04
No. of boroughs	32
Members per borough	2,435
Spend per borough	£ 453,125

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How will it work?

- ◆ **Passengers**
 - ❖ Eligibility will be similar to bus pass, plus rural isolation
 - ❖ User gets subsidy per taxi trip
 - ❖ Bookings made direct with taxi operators
 - ❖ May want to offer additional service to residents without access to a car e.g. younger people

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◆ Passengers: the process

- ❖ Application Form & photograph
- ❖ Taxicard printed, with photo ID
- ❖ Taxicard and Handbook in post

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How will it work?

◆ Taxi drivers

- ❖ Voluntary scheme
- ❖ Offering a kerb-to-kerb service
- ❖ User subsidy on a smartcard, cash payment for balance of cost
- ❖ Fares booked in usual way or by hail and ride
- ❖ Drivers to be offered additional training

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◆ Smartcard system

- ❖ Taxi drivers have terminals in the cab
- ❖ Read Taxicard, deduct fare
- ❖ Driver downloads transactions on their own Operator Card
- ❖ Send to Concessionary Solutions Ltd for reimbursement by BACS
- ❖ Data, audit trail, monitoring

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How will it work?

◆ Starting pilot service in rural west of borough:

- ❖ Driver registration & logo/badge
- ❖ Smartcard system

◆ Collect data, evaluate pilot

- ❖ Aim: borough-wide scheme
- ❖ New unitary authority?

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CM Taxicard Development

◆ Driver accreditation

- ❖ DSA Taxi Test (or similar)
- ❖ Disability awareness training

◆ Health & social care agencies

- ❖ Patient transport under review
- ❖ Closure of traditional day care
- ❖ Access to service guarantees?
- ❖ Quality Taxi Partnership(s)

◆ Funding: concessionary fares?

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Contact details

◆ Pilot: general queries go to

- ❖ Jen Taylor at RATC 0161 368 6603 or jen@ratransport.co.uk

◆ Castle Morpeth LSP:

- ❖ Graham Bone 01670 794799 or graham.bone@castlemorpeth.gov.uk

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