REPORT NO 377/08

ANGUS COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

10 APRIL 2008

AMENDMENT TO TAXICARD SCHEME

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH

ABSTRACT
This report highlights an anomaly in the current conditions for the admission of taxi operators to the Angus Council Taxicard scheme and recommends a change to the conditions.

1 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Social Work and Health Committee approves the amendment to the conditions relating to the admission of taxi operators to the Taxicard Scheme.

2 INTRODUCTION

Angus Council's Taxicard Scheme has been in existence since local authority reorganisation in 1996 (Report No AC41/96).

The Taxicard Scheme is, in effect, a travel concession scheme, which is designed to assist those people with a permanent disability who cannot use local bus services by allowing them to travel by taxi at a subsidised rate. Grants are also available to taxi operators for the provision of wheelchair accessible vehicles and for the installation of swivel seats.

3 THE ISSUE

One of the current conditions of entry for operators states that any operator applying to join the scheme must have at least two vehicles at his/her disposal. The actual condition is as follows:

- The operator must have a minimum of two taxi/private hire vehicles at their disposal unless they operate a wheelchair accessible taxi/private hire vehicle or operate in a deep rural location, in which case operators with only one vehicle will be admitted to the scheme.

This condition makes it difficult for some smaller operators to join the scheme as they only have access to one vehicle.

4 THE PROPOSAL

It is proposed therefore that the above condition be deleted to allow companies with only one vehicle to enter the scheme. All other conditions relating to the scheme will remain the same.
5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. Activity and expenditure on the Taxicard Scheme is routinely monitored, and any changes arising from this amendment will be highlighted and remedial action will be taken, in line with the approved policy.

6 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT IMPLICATIONS

There are no human rights implications arising from the recommendation contained in this report.

7 CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, the Director of Corporate Services, the Head of Finance and the Head of Law and Administration have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

8 CONCLUSIONS

It is clear that the Angus Council Taxicard Scheme benefits those individuals who as a result of disability cannot use a bus. The proposal in this report will ensure that as many operators as possible have the opportunity to be admitted to the scheme.

R Peat
Director of Social Work and Health

Note: No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.