

EXTRACT FROM ECONOMIC DSP MINUTES – 18TH APRIL 2006

83. ANY OTHER BUSINESS, WHICH THE CHAIRMAN, BY REASONS OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES DECIDES IS URGENT.

The Chairman agreed to take the item on Council Priorities as urgent business, because the DSP would not meet before both the Cabinet and the full Council made decisions.

Concessionary Travel Schemes

Following concerns from members of the public, panel members were concerned that SKDC was the only District Council in Lincolnshire that was not part of the County scheme. Residents from South Kesteven were only entitled to free travel within District boundaries. The Portfolio Holder advised that a government cross-border scheme was being introduced in 2008. Panel members felt that some interim arrangement should be made, as the policy of the Council was particularly restrictive for those people who lived in villages. Members noted that there could be the potential for dissatisfaction, because people in the south of the District would not be able to have free transport to neighbouring towns and cities, because they were outside South Kesteven.

Tourism

As part of the Council's Economic Development agenda, Panel members felt that more priority should be given to tourism. They suggested that tourism stimulated economic growth because more people would be drawn to the region and spending would be increased.

CONCLUSION:

The Panel were concerned about the low priority given to tourism and noted criticisms being made of South Kesteven District Council for not joining the Countywide link-up concessionary travel scheme.