

**Subcommittee to Study the Transport Needs
and Provision of Concessionary Public Transport Fares for
Persons with Disabilities**

Second Information Paper for Meeting on 29 June 2007

PURPOSE

The purpose of this paper is to inform Members on the introduction of a new mode of accessible public transport service for persons with disabilities (PWDs), to be provided by a non-governmental organization in the fourth quarter of 2007.

ACCESSIBLE HIRE CAR SERVICE PROGRAMME

2. With Government's support, a non-governmental organization successfully obtained a grant from the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust through the "Chief Executive Community Project List 2007" to purchase 20 wheelchair accessible 7-seater cars for introducing an accessible hire car service to promote social integration of PWDs. The grant totalled at \$15.24 million will be used for purchasing 20 vehicles and for meeting the recurrent expenditure for 3 years.

3. This new service is solely for PWDs, in particular, wheelchair users. Further to the existing public transport services, it provides PWDs with an additional alternative. Our policy on transport services for PWDs is to develop an accessible transport system to facilitate PWDs' full integration into the community. The introduction of this new service not only is in line with our policy, but also takes forward the Chief Executive's policy agenda in relation to enhancing the transport service for PWDs.

4. Under this new service, 20 wheelchair accessible 7-seater cars will be acquired by phases starting from the fourth quarter of 2007. This personalized and comfortable accessible transport service for PWDs can be obtained through advanced booking by telephone. The vehicle providing the service will be equipped with electric lifting device or ramp to facilitate boarding and alighting of wheelchair-bound passengers. In the cabin, wheelchair restraining facilities and passenger safety seatbelts will be installed and the vehicle can accommodate two wheelchairs at any one time. When determining the fee charges, reference will be made to the prevailing charging mode of hire car services and will take into account the zoning arrangement as well as distance travelled. The fee charges will be comparable to that of the other hire car services.

5. The new service will help alleviate PWDs' demand for accessible public transport services and further promote their integration into the community.
6. Members are requested to note the contents of this paper.

Health, Welfare and Food Bureau
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