

## **Bus pass restrictions to be lifted for older and disabled people in Swindon**

Older people and those with disabilities will be able to use their bus passes before 9.30am from Monday (23 March).

Swindon Borough Council has made the decision in conjunction with local bus companies to enable both older and disabled residents to get to the shops earlier during the current COVID-19 pandemic so they can take advantage of designated shopping slots from the major supermarkets.

Holders of a senior citizen and disabled bus pass were previously only able to travel for free on buses after 9.30am.

Councillor Maureen Penny, Swindon Borough Council's Cabinet Member for Transport and the Environment said: "I would like to thank all our local bus companies for their support in extending the period in which people can use their bus passes.

"This will make a real difference to the older generation and those people with disabilities, giving them greater access to shops during what is a really difficult time for our local communities."

Swindon Borough Council has a statutory duty to provide passes for free bus travel throughout England for older and disabled people under the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS).