

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment
Date:	26 November 2015
Title:	Publication of the Hampshire Concessionary Travel Scheme 2016-17
Reference:	7050
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to seek approval to continue the current range of concessions contained within the Hampshire Concessionary Travel Scheme for 2015/2016.
- 1.2. This paper seeks to set out the background to the scheme, considers the impact on the budget, including the current operator appeals, and proposes the scheme for 2016/2017.

2. Contextual information

- 2.1. Hampshire County Council acquired responsibility for the administration of concessionary travel in April 2011.
- 2.2. The published scheme is updated annually and the County Council is required to publish details of its draft Concessionary Travel Scheme for 2016/2017 by 1 December 2015. The final details of the scheme have to be published by 3 March 2016, 28 days prior to implementation on 1 April 2016. This report seeks approval from the Executive Member to continue the current range of concessions.
- 2.3. The statutory scheme provides for free travel between 0930 and 2300 on Monday to Friday, and at all times on weekends and on Bank Holidays, for eligible older and disabled persons. The County Council has not been notified of any changes. Reimbursement rates are calculated by the retained consultants based on Department for Transport (DfT) guidance.
- 2.4. Since it commenced on 1 April 2011, the Hampshire scheme has incorporated a number of enhancements for those with disabilities. This followed a detailed

Equalities Impact Assessment. These were included in the scheme which was approved by the Executive Member on 19 November 2010.

2.5. On 24 February 2011, the County Council approved an extension from 0930 to 0900 for older persons based on responses to consultation. The extension from 0930 to 0900 for older people was removed from 1 April 2015 with the exception of listed “infrequent services”. This reflected the priorities of respondents to consultation as part of the Bus Subsidy Review in 2014.

2.6. The enhancements to the statutory scheme are as follows:

- **FREE travel at all times for Disabled Hampshire Pass holders** on journeys commencing in Hampshire to destinations in England;
- **COMPANION TRAVEL** – The Scheme will allow certain Hampshire pass holders who have been issued with a ‘Companion pass’ to be accompanied by a companion who is eligible for the same free travel benefits as the pass holder. The companion may be anyone whom the pass holder considers appropriate to provide assistance;
- **Half Fare Travel** on Community Transport Services such as Dial-a-Ride and Call & Go providing that the pass holder meets all relevant eligibility criteria; and
- **ALTERNATIVE DISCRETIONS** - Travel vouchers worth £32 are offered as an alternative concession for those entitled to a disabled person’s pass. These are only valid on participating taxis, voluntary car schemes, Dial-a-Ride and Call & Go.

3. Finance

3.1. The overall size of the budget is £13.3m . The proposal in this report is to continue the current scheme, and there will be no impact on the budget.

4. Recommendations

4.1. That the Hampshire Concessionary Travel Scheme for 2016/2017 maintains the range of concessions currently provided and that this forms the basis of the draft scheme published on 1 December 2015.

4.2. That, if any variation to the final scheme from April 2016 is required, the decision on this will be taken by the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment in consultation with the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment.

Rpt/7050/KI

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:		
<u>Title</u> Executive Member – Environment Agenda item 1: Concessionary Fares	<u>Reference</u> 1866	<u>Date</u> 19 November 2010
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives		
<u>Title</u> Transport Act 2000 as amended by the Concessionary Bus Travel Act 2007		<u>Date</u> 2000, 2007

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

DocumentLocation

None

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

1.1. The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

1.2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

The proposals in this report have been developed with due regard to the requirements of the Equality Act 2010, including the Public Sector Equality Duty and the Council's equality objectives. As the proposal will not amend existing arrangements, there should be no impact upon those with protected characteristics.

It is considered that the issues covered by this report will not have impacts requiring further specific actions by the Council above those already established in its existing policies and working procedures.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1. It is considered that the decision will have no impact on crime and disorder.

3. Climate Change:

- 3.1. How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

The concessionary scheme enables eligible residents to use public transport as an alternative to the private car.

- 3.2. How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

The concessionary scheme supports use of public transport which minimises carbon emissions.