



SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 31ST OCTOBER 2001

**FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS FOR PROVISION OF TRAVEL
CONCESSIONS**

**REPORT OF THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND
TRANSPORTATION**

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to advise the Commission of the decision of the Cabinet to revise the arrangements for the provision of travel concessions. This matter is also being considered by the Planning and Environment Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 29th October, 2001. Their views will be tabled at the meeting.

Background

2. The County Council has operated a comprehensive scheme of concessionary travel since the late 1980's. The Transport Act 2000 contained a requirement on district councils to fund concessionary travel to a defined minimum level. In the light of this, agreement was reached last year that the existing scheme would continue unchanged in 2001/02, but for the removal of the previous concession issue charge. Districts would contribute to the cost by passing on to the County Council the extra SSA they received from government for this purpose.
3. Officers of the County and District Councils have met to discuss options for a revised scheme to be introduced in 2002/03, and have reached consensus on the approach to recommend. The Leader discussed the proposals at a meeting with the Leaders of the district councils on 17th September. At that meeting, all agreed to recommend the proposals to their own councils. A copy of the report considered by the Cabinet on 23rd October is attached.

Decision of the Cabinet

4. The Cabinet agreed the following:
 - (a) That subject to the agreement of the district councils, approval be given to the revision of the scheme of concessionary travel from April 2002;

- (b) That the scheme should be revised so as:-
- to provide no general option of tokens but an increased allocation of £33 a year of tokens as an option for disabled people and those who live in rural areas remote from hourly bus services;
 - to provide concessions for men aged 60 to 64 from the date specified by the Government;
 - to discontinue the Travel Aid scheme, concessions from travel on trains, and concessions for travel on buses before 9.30 a.m.; and
- (c) That it be noted that the district council's contribution to total costs of the scheme should increase to 35% in 2002/03, 45% in 2003/04 and 50% in 2004/05 and thereafter.
- (d) That in view of the wide ranging implications of the proposals a report on this matter be made to the meeting of the County Council on 28 November, 2001).

Recommendation

5. The Commission is asked to note the decisions of the Cabinet on this matter and having regard to the views of the Planning and Environment Scrutiny Committee indicate, whether it wishes to submit any comments to the Cabinet.

Officers to Contact:

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