

**SCRUTINY COMMISSION - 31 OCTOBER 2001**

**COMMENTS OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE (AT ITS MEETING ON 29 OCTOBER 2001) ON:**

**FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PROVISION OF TRAVEL  
CONCESSIONS**

The Committee considered the report on the Future Arrangements for the Provision of Travel Concessions, and the decision of the Cabinet on the same.

RESOLVED:-

- (a) that the Cabinet's decision be noted; and
- (b) that the Scrutiny Commission be advised that the Committee broadly supports the decision of the Cabinet, and considered that the proposed new concessionary travel scheme was well above the minimum standard required. The Committee was pleased that half-price passes would be available to all pensioners in the County, and that people with disabilities (for example, those with a visual impairment) would retain their right to the option of tokens, and that these would have an enhanced value.

However, the Cabinet should be asked to consider the following:-

- (i) the Committee was concerned at the apparent lack of consultation with interested individuals and organisations, and the consequent misapprehension among the public as to what was being proposed;
- (ii) the Committee considered that there would be difficulties in using a criterion of the ability to make a '10 minute walk' to the nearest hourly daytime bus stop to ascertain entitlement for a bus pass or tokens;
- (iii) the Committee remained concerned that it was not proposed to continue to fund concessionary travel on trains. Although concessionary travel on trains was more limited than on buses it was valued option, and the Committee was of the view that it would be preferable for the choice to be available to the public;
- (iv) if, as stated in the report to Cabinet, abuse of the token system had occurred in the past, it would have been helpful for this to have been quantified and specified. The way in which this had been referred to and the consequent recent misleading article, not backed up by factual information, in the 'Leicester Mercury', was unfortunate.

