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Consultation on proposed changes to concessionary travel

Budget pressures

The County Council faces cuts in income over the next three years and needs to make around £79million savings over the next four years. At the same time demand for services, such as care for older people and waste disposal, is expected to go up.

We also have to deal with the impact of schools locally moving to academy status and coming out of council control. Because the Government will transfer funding from the council's budget to support the new academies, we have to deal with this additional implication of losing further significant funding. All of this means we have to save more.

We are now looking at how we can achieve additional savings. In making decisions, we must target our resources at those with the greatest need. We will be undertaking an Equalities Impact Assessment on these proposals.

Your views

Last year we carried out a consultation about withdrawing those parts of the concessionary travel scheme that we currently provide on a discretionary basis, over and above the minimum requirement to provide the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme, but decided not to implement any changes at that time.

Because of the increasingly difficult financial situation, we are now considering again whether we should discontinue the scheme's discretionary elements, to contribute to the council's overall saving requirements, and are asking for your views on these proposals. This would reduce expenditure on concessionary travel by £270,000 per year.

If you have any questions about this consultation please contact 0116 305 0002 or e-mail passengertransport@leics.gov.uk

Concessionary Travel

The national concessionary travel scheme entitles both older people and disabled people to free travel on local bus services between 9.30am and 11.00pm Monday to Friday and at any time at weekends and bank holidays. In addition to the national scheme, the County Council provides a number of extra concessions. The council is considering the withdrawal of these extra elements of the Leicestershire concessionary travel scheme, which cost £270,000 per year.

Around 120,000 residents hold an older person's bus pass, and a further 8,500 hold a disabled person's bus pass.

Q1. Do you currently have a concessionary bus pass or use taxi vouchers?

- Yes
 No

Q2. If yes, which type of concession do you have? Please tick one box only.

- Bus pass for older people
 Bus pass for disabled people
 Taxi vouchers

Q3. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the following extra elements of the

Leicestershire concessionary travel scheme should be withdrawn? (The amount currently being spent is shown in brackets against each service listed)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Withdrawal of half fare on community transport (£160,000)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Withdrawal of taxi vouchers for disabled people who cannot use conventional bus services and for older people who live over 800 metres from an hourly bus (£80,000)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Withdrawal of free bus travel for disabled people before 9.30 am Mondays to Fridays (£20,000)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Withdrawal of free bus travel for older people and for disabled people after 11 pm Mondays to Fridays (£10,000)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q4. Please use the space below to let us know any comments about our proposals for discretionary concessionary travel provision:

About You

Leicestershire County Council is committed to ensuring that its services, policies and practices are free from discrimination and prejudice and that they meet the needs of all sections of the community.

We would be grateful if you would answer the questions below. You are under no obligation to provide the information requested, but it would help us greatly if you did. Information will be used to inform service development to ensure that what we are providing is fair and effective.

Q5. Are you male or female?

- Male
 Female

Q6. What was your age on your last birthday?

Q7. Do you have any long-standing illness, disability or infirmity?

- Yes
 No

Q8. What is your ethnic group? Please tick one box only

- White
 Mixed
 Asian or Asian British
 Black or Black British
 Other ethnic group

Q9. What is your religion or belief?

- No religion
- Christian (no denomination)
- Roman Catholic
- Church of England/Anglican
- Christian (other denomination)
- Buddhist
- Hindu
- Jewish
- Muslim
- Sikh
- Any other religion or belief

Q10. Sexual Orientation. Many people face discrimination because of their sexual orientation and for this reason we have decided to ask this monitoring question. You do not have to answer it but we would be grateful if you could tick the box next to the category which describes your sexual orientation:

- Bisexual
- Gay
- Heterosexual / Straight
- Lesbian
- Other

Q11. In total, how many cars or vans are owned or available for use by members of your household?

- None
- One
- Two
- Three
- Four or more
- Don't know

Q12. What is your postcode?

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Q13. Are you an employee of Leicestershire County Council?

- Yes
- No

Thank you for your time. Please click the button below to submit your response.

Please note that once you have clicked 'submit' it may take a few seconds for your information to be sent.

Please do not click 'submit' more than once.

Data Protection: Personal data supplied on this form will be held on computer and will be used in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. The information you provide will be used for statistical analysis, management, planning and the provision of services by the County Council and its partners. Leicestershire County Council will not share any personal information collected as part of this survey with its partners. The information will be held in accordance with the Council's records management and retention policy.

If you require the information contained in this questionnaire in an alternative version such as large print, Braille or help in understanding it in your language, please contact: 0116 305 0002 or email: passengertransport@leics.gov.uk