



SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 5TH JULY 2013

PROPOSED WITHDRAWAL OF DISCRETIONARY ELEMENTS OF THE CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL SCHEME – OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to draw attention to the results of the public consultation into proposals for the withdrawal of discretionary elements of the Concessionary Travel Scheme. The Cabinet at its meeting on 9th July will be asked to consider its response to the consultation process and come to a view on whether to proceed with the proposals.
2. The Scrutiny Commission is asked to consider the consultation responses and indicate what comments, if any it wishes to make on this matter to the Cabinet.

Proposed Changes

3. The English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS) enables free travel for qualifying elderly and disabled concessionary pass users on any local bus service between 9.30am and 11.00pm Monday to Friday and at any time on Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays.
4. The consultation proposals related to the discretionary elements of concessionary travel scheme, which are funded by the County Council and which it is proposed are now removed from 1st September 2013. The discretionary elements include the following:
 - half fare on community transport;
 - £33 of vouchers as an alternative to a bus pass;
 - free travel before 9.30am Monday to Friday for disabled pass holders and;
 - free travel for all concessionary pass holders after 11.00pm Monday to Friday.

Financial Implications

5. Removal of the discretionary elements of the scheme is proposed in order to achieve savings targets agreed by the County Council in the MTF5. This will, if agreed, realise a saving of £135,000 in 2012/13 rising to £270,000 from 2013/14 onwards.

Consultations

6. The proposals outlined above have been the subject of consultation. The consultation commenced on 20th May and closes on 30th June. The Director of Environment and Transport will undertake an analysis of the consultation responses, the findings of the Equality Impact Assessment of the proposals and will be submitting a detailed report

thereon to the Cabinet meeting on 9th July. A copy of that report will be circulated to all members of the Commission as soon as it is published.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

7. A copy of the Cabinet report will be circulated to all Members under cover of the Members' News in Brief.

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