

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET		
SUBJECT:	CONCESSIONARY FARES SCHEME 2014		
DATE OF DECISION:	19 NOVEMBER 2013		
REPORT OF:	CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
AUTHOR:	Name:	Simon Bell	Tel: 023 8083 3814
	E-mail:	Simon.bell@southampton.gov.uk	
Director	Name:	John Tunney	Tel: 023 8091 7713
	E-mail:	john.tunney@southampton.gov.uk	

STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY
N/A

BRIEF SUMMARY

The report seeks agreement on the Concessionary Fares Scheme 2014-15, subject to the publication of any revised guidance from the Department for Transport.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) To approve the scheme in appendix 1 subject to the calculations in recommendation (ii) below;
- (ii) To reimburse bus operators at a percentage rate plus an amount per generated journey, in accordance with the guidance given by the Department for Transport using their reimbursement calculator;
- (iii) To delegate to the Director of Place following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport to agree the final reimbursement rate for bus operators and to do anything necessary to secure participation in the Scheme including the service of Notices, including but not limited to Participation Notices, and the management / determination of Appeals either to the Council or the DfT as appropriate..

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To enable the Council to comply with the statutory requirement to serve bus operators with a minimum 4 months notice of the proposed Concessionary fares Scheme for 2014-15.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

2. It is a statutory requirement that the Council has to publish details of its proposed scheme in advance of the scheme introduction on 1 April 2013. The final decision on any changes to the local enhancements will be made at

in February following the Council setting its budget.

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

3. The Council is required by law to give bus operators 4 months notice of the proposed Scheme it will operate. This report will allow the Council to issue this notice to bus operators. The 4 month notice period allows operators to make representations to the Council in relation to the Scheme methodology, content and reimbursement arrangements. Should a bus operator refuse to participate in the concessionary fare scheme the Council would need to issue a participation requiring them to do so. In order for participation Notices to be effective, final confirmation of additional local enhancements to statutory minimum i.e. travel from 0900 rather than 0930 and between 2300 and 0030 for Southampton residents must be given to bus operators 56 days in advance of the Scheme coming in to operation. The proposed scheme for 2014 is the same as that which operates in 2013.
4. Final confirmation of the reimbursement rates to bus operators (as opposed to the methodology to be used) must be given 28 days in advance of the scheme coming in to operation. A decision on the reimbursement rate will be made by the Director of Place in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport. Bus operators then have 56 days from the start of the scheme to appeal to the Secretary of State on the proposed reimbursement arrangements
5. Appendix 1 shows the details of the proposed scheme for 2014/15.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

6. It is currently projected that the cost of the concessionary fare scheme in 2014/15 will be £5,030,300. Revised guidance from the Department for Transport has been issued and this will be used to confirm the final reimbursement rate 28 days prior to commencement of the scheme which is currently 48 p in the pound. The number of trips on the scheme since the national scheme was introduced in 2008 has been between 4.8m and 5.1m pa. The cost of the scheme has increased each year as a result of increases in bus fares which impacts on the average bus fare which is used to calculate the reimbursement to bus operators

Property/Other

7. There are no property or other implications

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

8. Concessionary fares are governed by the Transport Acts of 1985 and 2000, and the Concessionary Fares Act of 2007. If it is agreed that in the future, no enhancements over and above the statutory minimum will be offered, then the 1985 Act does not apply as all local enhancements are made under this act..

Other Legal Implications:

9. The provision of a concessionary travel scheme in accordance with the national minimum is a statutory duty. A discretionary power exists to provide

a scheme that extends entitlement of services over and above the national minimum. Any scheme must be made having regard to the Human Rights Act 1998 (with which any national minimum scheme will be deemed to comply). Statutory notice of the amendments to the 2014 scheme must be given by 1 December 2013 and any representations received in accordance with this Notice considered and determined in accordance with the Act and Regulations

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

- 10. The provision of concessionary travel accords with the policy direction of the City’s adopted Local Transport Plan 2011 - 2016 by helping the Council meet its targets for increasing the use of sustainable transport modes (and bus travel in particular) and also increasing accessibility and promoting social inclusion.

KEY DECISION? Yes

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	ALL
------------------------------------	-----

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	Proposed 2014/15 Scheme details
2.	

Documents In Members’ Rooms

1.	
2.	

Equality Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out.	No
--	----

Other Background Documents

Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:

Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
------------------------------	--

1.		
2.		