

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT
SUBJECT:	CONCESSIONARY FARES SCHEME 2013
DATE OF DECISION:	13 NOVEMBER 2012
REPORT OF:	SENIOR MANAGER PLANNING, TRANSPORT AND SUSTAINABILITY
STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY	
N/A	

BRIEF SUMMARY

The report seeks agreement on the Concessionary Fares Scheme 2013 -14, 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; and
- (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.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To enable the Council to comply with the statutory requirement to serve bus operators with a minimum four months notice of the proposed Concessionary fares Scheme for 2013-14.

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

2. The Council is required by law to give bus operators four months notice of the proposed Scheme it will operate prior to determining reimbursement figures. The four months notice period allows operators to make representations to the Council in relation to the Scheme methodology, content and reimbursement arrangements before a final decision is made. In order for participation Notices to be effective, final confirmation of additional local enhancements to statutory minimum must be given 28 days in advance of the Scheme coming in to operation. Final confirmation of the reimbursement rates for operators (as opposed to the methodology to be used) must be given 28 days in advance of the Scheme coming in to operation. Bus operators then have 56 days from the start of the scheme to appeal to the Secretary of State on the proposed reimbursement arrangements.
3. Appendix 1 shows the details of the proposed scheme for 2013/14.
4. Under the current scheme, the eligibility criteria are more generous than those required by the national scheme. The Council currently provides a discretionary local concession pass for those disabled people who do not meet the national concession criteria but who still have difficulty with travel; this pass allows travel within the City only. Whether this discretionary enhancement to the national scheme will continue to be offered will be determined by the Council in its budget setting meeting in February 2013 and that decision will be reflected in the recommendations to Cabinet on the adoption of reimbursement rates and final Scheme approval in February following the Council's budget meeting.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

5. 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 Cabinet in February following the Council setting its budget.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

6. It is estimated that the cost of the scheme will be £4,892,000 in 2013/14. Revised guidance from the Department for Transport has not been issued yet, however, this is based on the current reimbursement rate (subject to confirmation 28 days prior to commencement) which is set at 48 p in the £.

Property/Other

7. There are no property or other implications

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory Power to undertake the 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.

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 2013 scheme must be given by 1 December 2012 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.

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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Non-confidential appendices are in the Members' Rooms and can be accessed on-line

Appendices

1.	Proposed 2013/14 Scheme details
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Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	None
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Equality Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject/recommendations in the report require an Equality Impact Assessment to be carried out.	No
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Other Background Documents

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.	None
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Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	ALL
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