



# EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION

**REPORT OF:** Executive Member for Growth and Development

**LEAD OFFICERS:** Director of Growth and Development

**DATE:** 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019

**PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED:** Growth and Development

**WARD/S AFFECTED:** All

**SUBJECT:** Joint Lancashire County Council, Blackburn with Darwen Council and Blackpool Council Joint Concessionary Travel Scheme 2019-2020.

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The responsibility for mandatory Concessionary Travel Schemes lies with the Upper Tier Authorities, County Councils and Unitary Authorities.

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council along with Lancashire County Council and Blackpool Council are the joint Travel Concession Authority (TCA) for the "Lancashire" area. Lancashire County Council administers the joint scheme on behalf of Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council and Blackpool Council. A Concessionary travel re-imburement rate has been negotiated with bus operators and a revised Concessionary Travel Scheme for the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 has been produced, in accordance with the requirements of legislation.

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Member for Growth and Development:

- 1) Approves the implementation of the mandatory scheme, as attached at Appendix A.

## 3. BACKGROUND

A mandatory bus concession for older and disabled people has been in place since 2001. The scheme has gradually been extended since its introduction and since April 2008 has provided free off-peak local bus travel to eligible older and disabled people throughout England.

The mandatory bus concession is administered locally by Travel Concession Authorities (TCAs). For schemes commencing on or after 1 April 2011 the following authorities are TCAs: Upper Tier Authorities, County Councils and Unitary Authorities.

In addition to the mandatory bus concession, which allows free travel anywhere in England between the hours of 0930 and 2300 on Mondays to Fridays and at anytime at weekends and bank holidays, TCAs and District Councils are also able to offer discretionary concessionary travel schemes.

## 4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

As a TCA, the Council is required by law to publish details of the scheme at least 28 days before its commencement and full details of the scheme, which is for the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020, can be found at Appendix A.

The 2019-20 scheme's key points are as follows:

- i. A concessionary travel re-imburement rate has been negotiated with bus operators and the rate for period 2019-20 will remain at the current rate of 55 pence in the pound.
- ii. A discretionary concessionary travel enhancement of the £1 flat fare for Blind and Disabled pass holders travelling before 0930 will continue to be provided and funded by the joint TCAs.
- iii. Holders of English National Concessionary travel passes issued by Blackpool Council and LCC passes issued by Wyre only can travel free of charge at certain times on Tramcar services in Blackpool and Wyre. This discretionary concession funded by Blackpool Council and LCC for its residents. There are no additional discretionary elements within the published scheme.
- iv. ENCTS passes must be presented on an ITSO certified smart reader and the transaction recorded electronically.
- v. The issuing of paper tickets is at the discretion of the participating operator.
- vi. Operators must use ITSO certified smart electronic ticket machines when claiming concessionary travel reimbursement.
- vii. To widen the use of Stored Travel Rights and NoWSTAR smart ticketing in co-operation with local bus operators.

## 5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Joint Lancashire Travel Scheme accords with the Council's Local Transport Plan 3 2011 – 2021 strategy.

## 6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Growth and Development Department's revenue budget 2019/20 includes provision to meet the costs of the Concessionary fare reimbursement to operators and the contribution to Lancashire County Council for the cost of administering the scheme.

## 7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Provision for travel concessions in England is contained in five pieces of primary legislation: the Transport Act 1985, the Transport Act 2000, the Travel Concession (Eligibility) Act 2002 and the Concessionary Bus Travel Act 2007.

Concessionary Travel is a mandatory scheme and the Scheme provides the statutory level set out in the Transport Act 2000 as amended by the Concessionary Bus Travel Act 2007 and also continues to provide certain enhanced concessions. This document covers the reimbursement arrangements for both the Transport Act 1985 wider Scheme as well as the statutory minimum introduced under the Transport Act 2000 as amended by the Concessionary Bus Travel Act 2007.

## 8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

None.

## 9. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

**Please select one of the options below. Where appropriate please include the hyperlink to the EIA.**

Option 1  Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required – the EIA checklist has been completed.

Option 2  In determining this matter the Executive Member needs to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA link here)*

Option 3  In determining this matter the Executive Board Members need to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA attachment)*

## **10. CONSULTATIONS**

The objective of the Scheme is to reimburse bus operators so that they are "no better and no worse off" for participating in the mandatory scheme. Consultation has taken place with bus operators concerning the details of the scheme and the re-imbusement rate.

## **11. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE**

The recommendations are made further to advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been considered. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

## **12. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

All Declarations of Interest of any Executive Member consulted and note of any dispensation granted by the Chief Executive will be recorded and published if applicable.

<b>VERSION:</b>	0.1
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<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	Mike Cliffe, Strategic Transport Manager, ext 5310
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<b>DATE:</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> May 2019
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<b>BACKGROUND PAPER:</b>	Appendix A: Joint Lancashire Concessionary Travel Scheme 2019 – 2020
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