

Overview & Scrutiny - Monitoring Recommendations

Review Title:		Concessionary Travel		
Committee:		Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Date of report to Executive: 6 July 2009	Update: 10 December 2009
Scrutiny Officers:		Catherine Phythian		
Recommendation		Executive Response	Progress	
1.	Smart Card Reader Scheme That Cherwell District Council should not pursue the introduction of a Smart Card Reader scheme at this time due to the significant financial investment required and reservations about the current technical capacity of such schemes to meet the Council's needs. The government consultation on the future administration of concessionary travel schemes compounds the uncertainty.	Agreed	No further action. In December 2009 the Government announced that from April 2011 statutory and discretionary Concessionary Travel will be the responsibility of County Councils.	
2.	Mis-ticketing That the Portfolio Holder should publicise the importance of checking bus tickets and encourage bus pass holders to submit examples of mis-ticketing. The Portfolio Holder should follow-up examples of mis-ticketing with the bus companies; monitor the scale and value of the problem for the remainder of the financial year; and report on the results and proposed actions to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the spring of 2010.	Agreed	To be discussed at Overview and Scrutiny Committee in February/March 2010.	
3.	Management Information That the Portfolio Holder should encourage the concessionary fare service providers to move to a monthly rather than quarterly claim and settlement cycle.	Agreed	Completed. This became effective from December and bus operators are complying.	
4.	National Travel Tokens That the current arrangements for the issue of national travel tokens should continue for 2009/10 and that the Portfolio Holder should monitor the take up and use of the national travel token	Agreed	To be discussed at Overview and Scrutiny Committee in February/March 2010. At present CDC offers Travel Tokens as an alternative to the national bus pass. The continuation of this discretionary service post April 2011 is under review.	

	<p>scheme. The Council's continued participation in the national travel token scheme should be reviewed against the findings of the independent research into the provision of community transport schemes in the district (see recommendation 5).</p>		<p>It is possible that the County Council will decide to offer Travel Tokens post April 2011. But if the County does not offer Travel Tokens, CDC could decide to continue the scheme for local residents but it could not be offered as an alternative to a bus pass as we would have no way of identifying bus pass holders. So the eligibility criteria would have to be on age and disability and this could lead to considerable increase in the size and cost of the scheme.</p>
5.	<p>Community Transport That Cherwell District Council should continue to support and promote the provision of community transport schemes across the District. In support of this corporate priority the Portfolio Holder should commission research into the feasibility of introducing alternative community transport schemes in those parts of the district where residents do not benefit from the concessionary bus pass, national travel tokens or the Dial-A-Ride service.</p>	Agreed	<p>Report commissioned from Oxfordshire Rural Community Council.</p> <p>To be discussed at Overview and Scrutiny Committee in February/March 2010.</p>
6.	<p>Consortium approach That the Portfolio Holder should open discussions with colleagues at the County Council and the District/City councils with a view to promoting a co-ordinated approach to the delivery of the national concessionary travel scheme, subject to the outcome of the government's consultation on the administration of concessionary fares schemes.</p>	Agreed	<p>No further action. In December 2009 the Government announced that from April 2011 statutory and discretionary Concessionary Travel will be the responsibility of County Councils.</p>
7.	<p>Government Consultation That the Portfolio Holder should be invited to use the work of this Task & Finish Group and the conclusions and recommendations in this report to inform the Council's response to the government's consultation on the administration of concessionary fares schemes.</p>	Agreed	<p>Completed: Consultation response submitted in July 2009.</p>
8.	<p>Concessionary Travel Scheme That the start time for the concessionary travel scheme in Cherwell should not be reviewed again and should remain at 09.30 am, in line with the statutory scheme, until April 2011 when the new arrangements for the administration of the concessionary travel scheme will come into force.</p>	Agreed	<p>No further action. In December 2009 the Government announced that from April 2011 statutory and discretionary Concessionary Travel will be the responsibility of County Councils.</p>
Executive decision and additional recommendations (6 July 2009)			
	<p>a. Agreed, with the amendment that following further discussion between Oxfordshire local authorities that the consultation response from this authority to the Government should state that the concessionary travel scheme be operated nationally by the Government (who would deal with the cost of the scheme and reimbursements), but administered locally by District Councils (who would deal with local residents). See 7 above.</p>		

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| | <p>b. Additionally portfolio holder requested to investigate adverts on buses raising the issue of mi-ticketing and the cost per use of the dial-a-ride service. To be discussed at Overview and Scrutiny Committee in February/March 2010.</p> |
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