



Leicester  
City Council

## MINUTE EXTRACT

Minutes of the Meeting of the  
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Held: WEDNESDAY, 16 JUNE 2004 at 5.30pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Thompson - Chair  
Councillor Panchbhaya - Liberal Democrat Spokesperson

Councillor Bhatti (for Councillor Wann)  
Councillor Hall

Councillor Tessier  
Councillor Vincent

Also in Attendance

Councillor Ramsdale – Cabinet Link Member, Highways and Transport

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## 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were requested to declare any interests they may have in the business on the agenda.

No declarations were made at this time.

## 9. CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL SCHEME

The Service Director, Highways and Transportation, submitted a report that detailed the reductions made to the levels of travel concessions available to senior citizens, with effect from 2 May 2004, in order to reduce the cost of the Scheme to the City Council. The amendments to the Scheme were detailed as follows: -

Holders of Leicester City Council Senior Citizens Travel Concession Passes would no longer be able to travel at concessionary rate (half fare) :

- Outside Leicester City boundary
- Before 9.30am on Monday to Friday (except on public holidays)
- On train services

No changes were made to the validity of Travel Passes issued to Disabled People.

Officers reported that the annualised savings arising from the changes reported were: -

Removal of pre-0930 concession	£185,000
Removal of concessions outside the City	£ 50,000
Removal of rail concessions	£ 10,000

Officers further reported that the Transport Act 2000 stipulated that an entitlement to at least a half fare travel concession on all local bus services, within the area of a “travel concession authority” and during relevant times, be given to all elderly people. Relevant times were: -

- From 09.30 to 2300 on weekdays.
- All day Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays.

Examples of travel concessions arrangements for older people in comparable cities were also quoted.

Councillor Ramsdale, Cabinet Link Member for Highways and Transport, stated that he had requested that the report be brought to the Scrutiny Committee and that he was pursuing a reinstatement of some, or all, of the changes made to the Concessionary Travel Scheme and sought the support of the Scrutiny Committee.

Officers stated that the Head of Legal Services had submitted advice to the effect that should the Scrutiny Committee wish to pursue the reinstatement of some or all of the cuts made to the Scheme that they should request that Cabinet consider these as part of the process for the formulation of the 2005/06 Council Budget. The Scrutiny Committee could also stipulate that support would be forthcoming to reinstate some or all of the Concessionary Travel Scheme that had been previously available to holders of Leicester City Council senior citizens’ travel concession passes.

Before voting on the recommendation in the report to note the changes made to the Concessionary Travel Scheme Councillor Vincent, seconded by Councillor Bhatti, proposed the following amendment: -

“In the light of the Government’s policy of urban Post Office closures and the effect this will have on the needs of pensioners to travel more widely, and with the knowledge of the revenue savings found by the recent Transport Review, the Scrutiny Committee requests that the Cabinet reconsider the changes made with regard to the Concessionary Travel Scheme.”

Voting on the amendment took place and it was unanimously supported by the Scrutiny Committee.

**RESOLVED:**

that, in the light of the Government’s policy of urban Post Office closures and the effect this will have on the needs of pensioners

to travel more widely, and with the knowledge of the revenue savings found by the recent Transport Review, the Scrutiny requests that the Cabinet reconsider the changes made with regard to the Concessionary Travel Scheme.