

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Lead Member for Universal Services
Date:	27 November 2023
Title:	Publication of the Hampshire Concessionary Travel Scheme 2024/25
Report From:	Director of Universal Services

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1. The decision:

- 1.1 That approval be given to continue to provide the existing discretionary enhancements as detailed in the supporting report for the next financial year, and that this forms the basis of the draft Hampshire Concessionary Travel Scheme 2024/2025, due to be published on 1 December 2023.
- 1.2 That approval be given, in line with Department for Transport guidance, for the Hampshire Concessionary Travel Scheme 2024/2025 to revert fully to the Scheme's standard reimbursement principles (that operators should be no better or worse off as a result of the Scheme) with operator reimbursements determined by the number of concessionary travel journeys made on Hampshire services.
- 1.3 That authority is delegated to the Director of Universal Services to make minor variations to the final 2024/25 Scheme as required, and any changes to the Scheme in response to updated Department for Transport issued guidance, in consultation with the Executive Lead Member for Universal Services.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1. Hampshire County Council is required by law to publish details of its draft Concessionary Travel Scheme for 2024/2025 ("the Scheme") by 1 December 2023. The proposed Scheme includes a number of enhancements to the statutory scheme.
- 2.2. By reverting fully to the Scheme's standard reimbursement principles, Hampshire County Council, as a Travel Concession Authority (TCA) is ensuring it is compliant with relevant legislation. Although bus patronage levels remain lower than in the years before Covid-19, it is anticipated that the updated Department for Transport Calculator and guidance will adequately reflect the new post covid landscape within which operators now function.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. Offering the statutory scheme only: this was rejected, as it would not reflect the specific requirements of Hampshire residents, and a period of consultation would be required prior to the removal of these enhancements to the scheme.
- 3.2. Continuing to reimburse operators based on the percentage of pre-covid network mileage operated is not expected to be permitted from April 2024, as the Department for Transport has indicated there is no intention to extend the Statutory Instrument that has in previous years allowed for reimbursement based on factors other than actual passenger numbers.

4. Conflicts of interest:

- 4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker:
- 4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted:

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: none.

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by:

Date:

DocuSigned by:

Nick Adams-King

27 November 2023

**Executive Lead Member for Universal Services
Councillor Nick Adams-King**