

# WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

APPOINTED MEMBERS

DATE: 3 MARCH 2008

AGENDA ITEM NO: 5

**SUBJECT: THE ENGLISH NATIONAL CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL SCHEME  
2008**

## Report of the Passenger Transport Executive

### 1. MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION

- 1.1. Publication of Concessionary Travel Schemes to be effective from April 2008.

### 2. INFORMATION

#### Introduction

- 2.1. Following consideration by the Authority at its meeting of 23 November, Metro published for consultation the new arrangements for travel by senior citizens and disabled people under the provisions of the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme 2008, by 1 December.
- 2.2. Appendices 1, 2 and 3 set out information about eligible persons and their entitlements under the 2008 Scheme (the English National Entitlement), the 2007 Scheme and Metro's discretionary scheme under the 1985 Transport Act. The full schemes, running to many pages and including re-imburement arrangements, will be available at the meeting. The entitlements in the 2007 and 2008 schemes are defined by Government and are reported for information.
- 2.3. This report details proposed changes as a result of consultation since the publication of the draft schemes and requests the Authority to:
  - note the publication of the 2007 scheme;
  - note the publication of the 2008 scheme, reflecting the requirements of the English National Concessionary Travel scheme 2008;
  - approve the proposed resultant changes to the Authority's discretionary Concessionary Travel Scheme (eg rail, young persons and companions) made under the 1985 Transport Act.

### Outcome of consultations with Operators on the 2007 and 2008 Schemes

- 2.4. The main issues arising from the consultations on the draft scheme have been the discounting of First fares, the indexation of capacity payments and the approach to capacity and re-imburement on a very small number of services such as the Yorkshire Coastliner service between Leeds and Scarborough.
- 2.5. It is proposed that the approach to First fares be consistent with the resolution, or otherwise, of the ongoing discussions following their Appeal. These discussions are detailed in a separate report for reasons of confidentiality.
- 2.6. It is proposed that capacity payments from April 2008 be index linked to the CPT cost index and that operators be required to accept this, or provide robust evidence that another value should be used (this may be justifiable in the case of the Coastliner service or services in tourist locations such as Haworth).
- 2.7. It is also proposed that *pteg* be asked to commission an independent audit of the CPT cost index
- 2.8. There are a small number of services, such as the Yorkshire Coastliner, for which the general approach to elasticity is inappropriate and a service specific approach to re-imburement will be negotiated.

### Proposed Amendment to Metro's Scheme made under the 1985 Transport Act

- 2.9. The 1985 Transport Act contains powers for Metro to provide other concessionary travel to other eligible groups, such as children.
- 2.10. It is proposed that Metro amend the scheme to:
  - withdraw the entitlement for senior and disabled persons to cross-boundary travel as this is covered by the new national arrangements and is therefore no longer relevant;
  - allow, on a 'knock-for-knock' basis cross-boundary travel by those holding the English National Scheme 'Companion Pass' issued by Travel Concession Authorities in the Yorkshire and Humber region.
- 2.11. The Authority, as part of its budget process, has agreed to review the rail concessionary scheme and a report will be produced for future consideration.
- 2.12. Work has commenced, initially through *pteg*, to re-evaluate the approach to concessionary travel by young people.

### **3. FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1. Whilst DfT have advised Metro of the additional grant to be paid between 2008/09 and 2010/2011 there is still considerable uncertainty about future costs for concessionary travel.
- 3.2. Operators have 56 days, from the publication of the 2007 and 2008 (Transport Act 2000) schemes, to appeal against the re-imbusement arrangements.

### **4. STAFFING IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1. There is an additional requirement for card management (maintaining records, re-ordering and hot-listing). This will be met from existing resources.

### **5. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1. The new arrangements enhance bus travel opportunities for senior citizens and disabled persons.

### **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1. That the report be noted.
- 6.2. That the publication of the statutory arrangements for the 2007 and 2008 schemes, as set out in the report and detailed in Appendix 1 and 2, be noted.
- 6.3. That the discretionary arrangements from April 2008, as set out in the report and detailed in Appendix 3, be approved.
- 6.4. That discussions continue with operators following publication of the schemes and further reports be prepared for the Concessionary Fares Working Group and the Authority.

**Director General**  
**West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive**

**Transport Act 2000 Travel Concessions Arrangements 2007**

**Eligible Persons and Nature of Concessions Under 2000 Act**

<b>Class of Eligible Persons</b>		<b>Nature of Concession to be Provided (Bus only)</b>
(i)	<u>Senior Persons</u> (i.e. women and men over the age of 60 years)	On production of a statutory travel concession permit a person shall be carried without charge on eligible services to which the Arrangements apply, provided that the actual time of boarding falls between the following hours:  (a) Monday to Friday (except when the day is a Bank Holiday) 0930hrs to 2300hrs  (b) Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays. All day until end of normal services
(ii)	<u>Disabled Persons (as defined in section 146 Transport Act 2000)</u>	

**Eligibility**

- (a) Persons who are blind or partially sighted
- (b) Persons who are profoundly or severely deaf
- (c) Persons without speech
- (d) Persons with a disability, or have suffered an injury, which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on their ability to walk
- (e) Persons who do not have arms or have long-term loss of the use of both arms
- (f) Persons with a learning disability, that is, a state of arrested or incomplete development of mind, which includes significant impairment of intelligence and social functioning
- (g) Persons who would, if they applied for the grant of a licence to drive a motor vehicle under Part III of the Road Traffic Act 1988, have their application refused pursuant to section 92 of the Act (physical fitness) otherwise than on the ground persistent misuse of drugs or alcohol.

Concessions for disabled persons are available at any age.

**English National Concessions 2008 Scheme**

**Eligible Persons and Nature of Concessions Under 2000 Act**

<b>Class of Eligible Persons</b>		<b>Nature of Concession to be Provided (Bus only)</b>
(i)	<u>Senior Persons</u> (i.e. women and men over the age of 60 years)	On production of a statutory travel concession permit a person shall be carried without charge on eligible services to which the Arrangements apply, provided that the actual time of boarding falls between the following hours:  (a) Monday to Friday (except when the day is a Bank Holiday) 0930hrs to 2300hrs  (b) Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays. All day until end of normal services
(ii)	<u>Disabled Persons (as defined in section 146 Transport Act 2000)</u>	

**Eligibility**

Disabled persons to hold “with/without companion” permits must be verified by the Social Services Department in each of the administrative areas of the Principal Area as being one of the following seven eligible categories as per, Guidance to Local Authorities on Eligibility for Disabled People and Section 146 Transport Act 2000:

- (a) Persons who are blind or partially sighted
- (b) Persons who are profoundly or severely deaf
- (c) Persons without speech
- (d) Persons with a disability, or have suffered an injury, which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on their ability to walk
- (e) Persons who do not have arms or have long-term loss of the use of both arms
- (f) Persons with a learning disability, that is, a state of arrested or incomplete development of mind, which includes significant impairment of intelligence and social functioning
- (g) Persons who would, if they applied for the grant of a licence to drive a motor vehicle under Part III of the Road Traffic Act 1988, have their application refused pursuant to section 92 of the Act (physical fitness) otherwise than on the ground persistent misuse of drugs or alcohol.

Concessions for disabled persons are available at any age.

## APPENDIX 3

### Transport Act 1985 Scheme (Discretionary) Eligible Person and Nature of Concession under 1985 Act

#### 1. Bus

Class of Eligible Persons		Nature of Concession to be Provided On Scheme Services Provided by Bus
(i)	<p><u>Senior Persons</u> (i.e. women and men over the age of 60 years)</p> <p>and</p> <p><u>Disabled Persons</u> (as defined in Section 146 Transport Act 2000)</p>	<p>On production of a statutory travel concession pass a person shall be carried without charge on eligible services* to which the Scheme applies, provided that the actual time of boarding falls during the following hours:</p> <p>(a) Monday to Friday after 09.30hrs (b) Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays all day</p>
(ii)	<u>Blind Persons (with or without companion)</u>	On production of a Blind Persons Pass (with or without companion) a person and companion, if appropriate, shall be carried without charge on eligible services* to which the Scheme applies at all times throughout the day for journeys within West Yorkshire. Companions will also be entitled to free off peak travel on journeys to and from West Yorkshire.
(iii)	<u>Disabled Persons (with companion)</u>	Companions will receive the same concessions as the holder on off-peak eligible journeys within West Yorkshire and journeys to and from West Yorkshire. Holders of companion passes issued by Travel Concession Authorities in the Yorkshire and Humber region will also be entitled to free travel on off peak journeys to and from West Yorkshire.
(iv)	<p><u>Young Persons</u></p> <p>Young Persons under age 5 years</p> <p>Young Persons age 5 to 10 years</p> <p>Young Persons age 11 to 16 years</p> <p>Young Persons age 16 to 18 years attending school or college for at least 21 hours per week</p>	<p>Travel free at all times</p> <p>Half fare travel at all times</p> <p>On production of a Young Persons PhotoCard and payment of a half fare any eligible person shall be carried without further charge on all eligible services* to which the Scheme applies</p> <p>Only on production of a Scholars PhotoCard and payment of a half fare any eligible person shall be carried without further charge on all eligible services* to which the Scheme applies</p>

\*Exclusions are certain special services, excursions, tours, private hire vehicles, school and works contract services and certain express bus services, which cross the West Yorkshire boundary.