

Changes to the Concessionary Fares Scheme

1. Metro has been consulting with operators on the level of reimbursements that will be paid when the Government's mandatory free travel for older and disabled people is introduced from 1 April 2006. These discussions have been held against a background of increasing bus industry costs and increasing fares and are therefore extremely difficult to bring to a conclusion.
2. Members will be aware of the Government requirement for the Authority's concessionary fare scheme to be free on local bus services within West Yorkshire for men and women over 60 years of age and certain categories of disabled people, with effect from 1 April 2006. The budget therefore includes the estimated cost of the change to zero fare from the previous charge of 35p. The budget also includes the effects of retaining the current 35p fare on rail for this group of people.
3. In addition the budget also includes the cost of the current half fare arrangements on bus and train for young people and the effect of providing improved cross boundary bus travel opportunities for men and women over the age of 60 and certain categories of disabled people.
4. For purposes of clarification the cost of the scheme, with effect from 1 April 2006, as it is included in the attached budget covers:
 - a. Free travel on most local bus services within West Yorkshire for men and women over 60 years of age and certain categories of disabled people after 0930hrs Monday to Friday and all day Saturday, Sunday and Public Holidays (excluding night bus services, football specials, excursions, tours, private hire vehicles, school and works contract services and certain express bus services which cross West Yorkshire)
 - b. 35p flat fare for men and women over 60 years of age and certain categories of disabled people on local rail services after 0930hrs Monday to Friday and all day Saturday, Sunday and Public Holidays.
 - c. Free travel for men and women over 60 years of age and certain categories of disabled on most bus services that cross the West Yorkshire boundary. This will include journeys to and from West Yorkshire and Greater Manchester; West Yorkshire and Lancashire; West Yorkshire and North Yorkshire and West Yorkshire and South Yorkshire.

However, all subsequent further travel will not be allowed within neighbouring authorities areas. In the case of North Yorkshire certain services, including those to York, the Dales and the East Coast, are excluded from these arrangements. The current arrangement where West Yorkshire Senior and Disabled Permit holders make subsequent journeys on certain services in Greater Manchester and Lancashire will not be available from 1 April 2006.

- d. Continuation of half fare at all times on most local bus and rail services within West Yorkshire for children aged 5 to 15 years of age and 16 to 18 year olds in full time further education. (Under 5's travel free at all times).
- e. It is important to note that Metro is still in consultation with operators therefore the final cost of the scheme has not been established. A further report will be presented to Members later in the year when the patronage impact of the changes are known.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

MANDATORY NATIONAL SCHEME

- 5.1 That, with effect from 1 April 2006, the concessionary fare for men and women over 60 years of age and certain categories of disabled people as set out in the West Yorkshire Concessionary Travel Scheme will be zero on most local bus services within West Yorkshire after 0930hrs to 23.00hrs Monday to Friday and all day Saturday, Sunday and Public Holidays.

WEST YORKSHIRE DISCRETIONARY SCHEME

- 5.2 That, with effect from 1 April 2006, arrangements will be made under the discretionary scheme to extend the 23.00hrs cut off time included in the mandatory scheme requirements to cover most last buses.
- 5.3 That, with effect from 1 April 2006, the concessionary fare for men and women over 60 years of age and certain categories of disabled people as set out in the West Yorkshire Concessionary Travel Scheme will be 35p on local rail services after 0930hrs Monday to Friday and all day Saturday, Sunday and Public Holidays.
- 5.4 That, with effect from 1 April 2006, the concessionary fare for men and women over 60 years of age and certain categories of disabled people as set out in the West Yorkshire Concessionary Travel Scheme will be zero on most local bus services after 0930hrs Monday to Friday and all day Saturday, Sunday and Public Holidays that cross the West Yorkshire boundary. This will

include journeys to and from West Yorkshire and Greater Manchester; West Yorkshire and Lancashire; West Yorkshire and North Yorkshire and West Yorkshire and South Yorkshire.

Subsequent further travel will not be allowed within neighbouring authorities areas. In the case of North Yorkshire certain services, including those to York, the Dales and the East Coast, are excluded from these arrangements.

- 5.5 That the concessionary fare for children aged 5 to 15 years of age and 16 to 18 year olds in full time further education travel on most local bus and rail services within West Yorkshire will be half fare at all times (excluding night bus services, football specials, excursions, tours, private hire vehicles, school and works contract services and certain express bus services which cross the West Yorkshire).
- 5.6 That children under 5 travel free at all times when accompanied by a fare paying passenger.