

Appendix E

Background Information - Concessionary Travel Schemes in the South-East

1.0 Concessionary Travel Schemes in Berkshire

- 1.1 Due to the unitary set up of the Berkshire authorities there are variants in Concessionary Travel schemes offered across the county for Access pass holders, as set out below:
- 1.2 Bracknell Forest Borough Council allows, in addition to the statutory national scheme, free travel at any time within Bracknell for Access pass holders on local bus services. However, the Council does not issue any companion entitlement or permit the use of dial-a-ride services.
- 1.3 Slough Borough Council only offers the statutory national scheme for Access pass holders, having removed free bus use before 9:30am and the companion entitlement in April 2015. Slough's scheme does not permit the use of dial-a-ride services.
- 1.4 The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead allows free travel at any time with the borough as well as issuing the companion entitlement, in addition to the statutory national scheme. The scheme does not permit the use of dial-a-ride services, however does offer a Travel Assistance Payment Scheme (TAPS) providing residents with a personal budget of £100 with People to Places, the main community transport provider within the borough. Eligible residents receive pre-paid credits for eighteen one-way local journeys (defined as up to 2 miles) which must be used within a 12 month period and are not transferable.
- 1.5 Wokingham Borough Council offers free travel on local bus services within Wokingham from 9:00am for Access bus pass users in addition to the statutory scheme. In addition, Wokingham issues Companion passes to eligible Access Pass holders and permits free travel on dial-a-ride services operated by Readibus and Keep Mobile, and on medical trips offered by the Community Voluntary Transport Schemes.
- 1.6 West Berkshire Council only provides the statutory national scheme of free travel 9.30am to 11pm, Mondays to Fridays, and any time at weekends and bank holidays for Access pass holders. It does not provide any additional discretionary elements as these were removed in May 2016.

2.0 Concessionary Travel Schemes in the Wider South East

- 2.1 In addition, a selection of the Concessionary Travel schemes offered by other authorities in the South East is set out below:
- 2.2 Brighton and Hove Council allows free travel from 9:00am on weekdays, 30 minute earlier than the statutory national scheme for both Older Person Pass holders and Disabled Person Pass holders, but it does not issue companion passes or allow free use of dial-a-ride services.

- 2.3 Hampshire County Council only offers the standard national off-peak scheme for older persons but free travel at any time for Access pass holders, except in Portsmouth and Southampton, who administer their own schemes. Southampton City Council offers the statutory scheme to older and disabled person's pass holders but allows free travel at any time on local bus service journeys starting within the city boundary for disabled pass holders who are registered Severely Sight Impaired or Blind, and also issues the companion entitlement.
- 2.4 It should be noted that Hampshire has recently consulted on charging a reduced fare for travel currently provided for free through the statutory scheme. However, this would require a change in legislation by central Government and therefore is not an option available to Travel Concession Authorities at the current time.
- 2.5 Surrey County Council only offer the statutory off-peak scheme for older person pass holders but does allow free travel at any time within Surrey for disabled person pass holders, and also issues a companion entitlement.
- 2.6 However Surrey has recently run a consultation on removing free travel at any time for disabled person pass holders and also removing the companion entitlement, with a decision is due on this in due course.
- 2.7 Swindon Borough Council only provides the statutory national scheme for local bus travel for its pass holders but it does provide a Travel Voucher Scheme (Mobility Impaired) for people of any age who have severe mobility problems and cannot use local public bus services. The vouchers are for use of Swindon Dial a Ride and other community transport, and if applicants are wheelchair dependent vouchers can also be used to travel on certain taxis and private hire car operators but cannot be used on local public bus services. The vouchers are for £80 a year and are used to pay towards the cost of the journey. This voucher can be used to travel at any time.