

Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Committee



Scottish Government's intention to consult on potential changes to the national concessionary travel scheme.

Date of meeting 24 February 2017

Date of report 15 February 2017

Report by Treasurer/ Secretary

1. Object of report

The object of this report is to update members of recent media reports regarding the Scottish Government's intention to consult on aspects of the national concessionary travel scheme.

2. Background

Members may be aware of media reports earlier this year, quoting the Scottish Minister for Transport and the Islands, Humza Yousaf MSP, as to the intention of the Scottish Government to hold a consultation on possible changes to the national concessionary travel scheme.

The transport minister was quoted as saying that he would like to see the extension of the national concession scheme to include Modern Apprentices and those on Jobs Grants however, insisted that those who already had valid passes would retain them.

However, the transport minister also stated that the Government also had to look at the "long-term sustainability" of offering all those over 60 free national travel.

Media reports have suggested changes may include an increase to the eligibility age for concessionary travel; this followed the announcement in December of Scotland's draft budget which outlined a reduction of £10m in the national concessionary travel scheme budget for 2017-18. However, the transport minister has been quoted as saying that he does not want to pre-empt any consultation.

3. Conclusion

Members are reminded that in April 2010, changes were applied to the National Concessionary Travel Pass (NCTP) in England which saw the eligibility age changed to mirror the state pension age. These changes were applied in a phased manner between 2010 and 2015.

Eligibility criteria for the Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme currently mirror that of the national concessionary travel scheme in Scotland. Whilst at this stage, no further details have been given regarding the Scottish Government's intention to consult; members are asked to be aware that any changes to the national scheme could impact on future eligibility criteria for the Strathclyde scheme.

Members are to be kept informed as to the progress of any consultation as further information emerges and an update given at a future meeting of the Joint Committee.

4. Partnership action

Members are asked to note the content of this paper.

5. Consequences

Policy consequences	<i>None at present</i>
Legal consequences	<i>None at present</i>
Financial consequences	<i>None at present</i>
Personnel consequences	<i>None at present</i>
Equalities consequences	<i>None at present</i>
Risk consequences	<i>None at present</i>

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Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Committee

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