

Agenda Item 6

Report to: **Leader and Lead Member for Strategic Management and Economic Development**

Date: **24 March 2020**

By: **Assistant Chief Executive**

Title: **Coronavirus (Covid-19) contingency arrangements**

Purpose: **To consider proposed temporary measures to be put in place in response to Covid-19.**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Leader is recommended to:

Delegate authority to the Chief Executive to take any executive decision which she considers appropriate in response to the outbreak of Covid-19

1. Background

1.1 The current incidence of the Covid-19 virus both nationally and internationally is beginning to cause disruption to a range of business and social activity. There may be a need for additional preventative measures to be introduced nationally to help contain or delay the spread of the virus. This includes potential advice to individuals or groups to self-isolate for periods of time, and/or for more general restrictions on travel or gatherings. It is also likely that more people will become unwell as a result of the virus.

1.2 The current situation is moving at pace and requires decisions to be taken at short notice. Although measures are being put in place for Lead Member decisions to be taken virtually it may in certain situations not be possible or prudent to wait for the Lead Member to take the decisions meeting.

1.3 It is therefore recommended that the Leader delegates authority to the Chief Executive to take any executive decision which she considers appropriate in response to the Covid-19 to help safeguard the residents of East Sussex.

1.4 It is recognised that this is a significant step and unprecedented. Where the Chief Executive exercises this delegation and the power exercised is not one currently set out in the scheme of delegation to officers then she will report this decision to the Group Leaders as soon as practicable.

PHILIP BAKER
Assistant Chief Executive

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

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Agenda Item 7

Report to: Leader and Lead Member for Strategic Management and Economic Development

Date of meeting: 24 March 2020

By: Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

Title: Concessionary Fares Scheme

Purpose: To consider an extension of the operating hours of the National Concessionary Fares Scheme

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Leader is recommended to approve an extension to the operating hours of the Concessionary Fares Scheme to allow pass holders to use their passes at any time during the day for 12 weeks (unless a longer period is directed by government).

1.0 Background

1.1 The County Council has been asked by the media and local bus companies to allow Concessionary Bus Pass holders to be able to use their bus passes at any time of the day so that older people can get to the supermarkets now that most have introduced dedicated slots for the over-70's. In the meantime, the main bus operators in the County (Stagecoach, Compass Travel, Metrobus and Brighton & Hove) have made their own decisions to allow free travel at any time to pass-holders for a temporary period.

1.2 It is difficult to gauge how much this might cost the Authority because it will depend on the take-up and bus patronage. Up until 2011 the County Council allowed concessionary passes to be used from 09:00am as a discretionary offer at a cost of approximately £100k per annum. The worst case might therefore be a cost in the region of £100,000 per annum and it may not be possible to offset this cost through a reduction in overall concessionary bus pass usage.

2.0 Conclusion and Recommendation

2.1 The Leader is recommended to approve the extension of the Concessionary Fares Scheme to allow pass holders to use their passes at any time during the day, and not just after 09:30am, and for this to remain in place for 12 weeks or unless directed by government.

RUPERT CLUBB

Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

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LOCAL MEMBERS

All members whose electoral divisions are within areas with on-street parking charges in Eastbourne and Hastings Borough and Lewes District.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

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