

**Report to:** Lead Member for Transport and Environment

**Date of meeting:** 3 April 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

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***RECOMMENDATIONS:*** The Lead Member 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).

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## **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. The County Council used to allow concessionary passes to be used from 09:00am as a discretionary offer but stopped giving that concession in 2011 to save approximately £100,000 per annum. The worst case might be a cost in the region of £100,000 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 Lead Member 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 relaxation to remain in place for 12 weeks, unless directed by government, at which point we will undertake a review.

## **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