

Statutory Notice**Pursuant to Section 95 of the Transport Act 1985 and Section 150 of the Transport Act 2000.****ENGLISH NATIONAL CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL SCHEME**

Tees Valley Combined Authority on behalf of Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees Borough Councils ("The Councils") hereby give notice of their intention under the Transport Act 1985 and Section 150 (1) of the Transport Act 2000 to reimburse operators for revenue foregone plus net additional costs for journeys made under the Concessionary Bus Travel Act 2007 and any local enhancements agreed under the Transport Act 1985.

Payments to operators will be for the year from 1st April 2022 to 31 March 2023 and will be based on the number of concessionary journeys made with each operator, the average adult fare for each operator, a reimbursement factor based on the guidance from the Department for Transport ("*Covid-19 Recovery Guidance – Concessionary Fares Funding*" and "*Concessionary travel for older and disabled people: guidance on reimbursing bus operators (England) – guidance for schemes commencing in April 2022*"), plus payments for any permitted local enhancements to the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme that are agreed with operators.

Reimbursement will be consistent with the principle set out in Regulation 4 of the Travel Concession Schemes Regulations 1986 and Regulation 6 of The Mandatory Travel Concession (England) Regulations 2011, so that an operator is financially no better and no worse off as a result of participation in the scheme.

In Darlington, consideration will be given to introduction of a pre-09:30 30p local enhancement as is in place across the other Tees Valley authorities. Furthermore, consideration will be given to introducing a disabled person's companion pass in Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees, as is in place in Darlington.

Should agreement not be reached with operators by 2 March 2022, the Tees Valley Combined Authority reserve the right to:

- Introduce a revised local enhancement scheme based on amended hours and/or charges for travel at times outside of the statutory scheme and to serve any notices as required under Section 97 of the 1985 Transport Act or
- Only operate the statutory minimum English National Concessionary Travel Scheme limiting free travel to between the hours of 9.30am and 11.00pm Monday to Friday and at any time on Saturdays, Sundays or Bank Holidays.

Issued on 21st December 2021 by:
Head of Transport, Tees Valley Combined Authority

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