

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE

PORTFOLIO AREA:

Date of Meeting:

18 February 2002

Public

Key Decision:

Yes

Recorded in Forward Plan:

Yes

Inside Policy Framework

Title: CONCESSIONARY FARES BEST VALUE REVIEW

Report of: City Treasurer

Report reference: Financial Memo 2001/02 No 139

Summary & Recommendations:

The Executive are requested to consider sanctioning the use of the 2002/03 £20,000 budget provision to fund the enhancement of the Concessionary Fares Scheme to include the provision of rail cards for qualifying residents with effect from 01 April 2002.

Contact Officer: Peter Mason

Ext: 7270

CITY OF CARLISLE

To: The Executive Financial Memo

18 February 2002 2001/02 No 139

CONCESSIONARY FARES BEST VALUE REVIEW

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS

1. Under the Best Value Review of Concesssionary Fares, £100,000 in efficiency savings have been identified.

2. As part of the 2002/03 budget determinations £80,000 of these savings have been earmarked for supporting other Council priorities, e.g. Community Safety, with the residual £20,000 being earmarked for further improvements to the Concessionary Fares Scheme.
3. Members of the Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee of 31 January 2002 recommended that this £20,000 budget provision be targeted at providing Concessionary Railcards to qualifying residents who find the train more convenient than bus travel.

2. CONSULTATION

1. Consultation to Date.

Extensive consultation with qualifying Carlisle residents has taken place and based on sample statistical information approximately 1,400 qualifying residents will apply for a Concessionary Rail Card.

2. Consultation proposed.

Not applicable.

3. STAFFING/RESOURCES COMMENTS

Not applicable.

4. CITY TREASURER'S COMMENTS

Included within the Report.

5. LEGAL COMMENTS

Not applicable

6. CORPORATE COMMENTS

Not applicable.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT

Not applicable.

8. EQUALITY ISSUES

Disabled people will qualify for a Concessionary Rail Card under these proposals.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

10. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Executive are requested to consider sanctioning the use of the 2002/03 £20,000 budget provision to fund the enhancement of the Concessionary Fares Scheme to include the provision of rail cards for qualifying residents with effect from 01 April 2002.

12. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

12.1 Implementing improvements identified under the Concessionary Fares Best Value Review.

D THOMAS

City Treasurer

Contact Officer: Peter Mason Ext: 7270

City Treasury

Carlisle

11 February 2002

PM/CH/f1390102

**EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE
INFRASTRUCTURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD ON 31 JANUARY 2002**

IOS.10/02 CONCESSIONARY FARES BEST VALUE REVIEW

The Head of Revenues presented Financial Memo 2001/02 No.136 concerning the Best Value Review of Concessionary Fares.

He commented that during the Review, efficiency savings of £100,000 had been identified. The Executive had recommended the use of £80,000 to help fund new Council initiatives in 2002/03, leaving £20,000 p.a. to support further improvements to the Concessionary Fares Scheme. He therefore sought guidance from Members on the use of that sum.

An Executive Summary, reflecting the improvements to the Scheme which had been identified and, where practicable, implemented during the Best Value Review process, together with Action Plan targets to achieve further improvements over the next three years were appended to the report.

In considering the matter, Members expressed their support for the introduction of Concessionary Railcards to qualifying pensioners and disabled people as an alternative to concessionary bus passes. It was, however, felt that the options of free bus travel to qualifying pensioners and disabled people and introduction of travel tokens/vouchers should also be borne in mind and looked at again as part of the Best Value Review.

RESOLVED – (1) That the Executive Summary and Action Plan be noted.

(2) That this Committee supports the recommendation to the Executive that the £20,000 efficiency savings retained in the Concessionary Fares Budget (of the total £100,000 savings) be used to finance the introduction of Concessionary Railcards for qualifying residents who find the train more convenient than bus travel.

(3) That it be noted that the final draft of the Best Value Review of Concessionary Fares would be submitted for scrutiny on 7 March 2002.