

Concessionary Travel

Lancashire County Council has, since October 1986, managed a Joint Concessionary Travel Scheme that governs the arrangements for Concessionary Travel on behalf of all the district and unitary authorities. The current concessionary rates are:

- People aged 60 or above - Half fare
- Disabled people – Half fare to a maximum fare of 50p

The benefits of the existing Joint Countywide Scheme are:

- The provision of travel arrangements that are simple and understandable for both user and bus driver
- That pass holders can travel across boundaries to access essential services that may not be available in the district where they live
- That the 46 bus and community transport operators deal with a single organisation, rather than individually with each of the 14 Travel Concession Authorities within Lancashire.

To ensure that existing pass holders receive the benefits of reduced travel costs currently in place in addition to the new statutory arrangements, Lancashire Councils are taking a joint approach to concessionary travel. Therefore the proposal for other Lancashire Councils and Rossendale Borough Council is that from 1st April 2006 the concessionary travel scheme will provide pass holders:

- With free travel for eligible residents wholly within the authority area, the concession to be available for journeys after 0930 on weekdays and at all times on weekends and Bank Holidays
- With free travel for eligible residents to the authority boundary and half fare from the boundary to destinations within countywide scheme, the concession to be available for journeys after 0930 on weekdays and at all times on weekends and Bank Holidays
- With half fare travel before 0930 weekdays on all journeys within authority boundaries and on cross boundary journeys into those areas included in the countywide scheme
- With half fare travel at all times on journeys taken wholly outside the authority area in which a pass holder resides, but on services that operate in the countywide scheme

Existing flat fare pass holders will be entitled to all the above, but with a maximum 50p flat fare payable on those journeys that require a payment.

The above proposals will ensure that Rossendale Borough Council delivers more than the Government's statutory minimum for concessionary travel.