

The Third National Concessionary Fares Conference

CONCESSIONARY FARES 2010

**Administration, Reimbursement and Finance:
managing the timetable and the politics**

Thursday 4 November

The Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London SW1P



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Administration, Reimbursement and Finance: managing the timetable and the politics

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Are you ready for the changes ahead?

Major changes will be made to the way concessionary fare schemes are managed in England starting in April 2011. Responsibility for concessionary fares across much of the country will pass from district councils to county councils. At the same time new methods will be introduced for calculating reimbursement payments to bus operators. Further change could result from revised funding formulae, and the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review.

The timescales on which local authorities responsible for managing concessionary fare schemes must decide on new arrangements is tight. They must publish draft proposals in early December, using new guidance from DfT which was issued for consultation in September. For some county councils, this will be completely new territory. For unitary authorities and PTEs, it will mean applying new reimbursement methods, and potentially managing the practical and political consequences of changed levels of payments to operators.

This provides the setting for Local Transport Today's Third Concessionary Fares conference on 4 November. It will give a platform for the Department for Transport to explain the new administrative arrangements and its revised guidance, and offer practitioners the opportunity to debate the practical implications. It will also look ahead to future developments in this area.

“ This event will provide critical support and guidance to all those responsible for concessionary travel administration, reimbursement and finance. ”



WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Local authority officers and members
- Operators
- Central government
- Chief executives and finance officers from authorities that administer the scheme
- PTEs/PTAs
- Consultants
- Academics
- User group representatives

SESSION 1

Concessionary fares policy and its administration

- 09.45 Conference opened by Chairman, **Andrew Last, Director, Minnerva Ltd**

Forthcoming changes to concessionary fares administration and reimbursement

- 09.50 New administrative arrangements – Local authorities' responsibilities and their delivery

Adam Simmons, Head of Travel Concessions, Department for Transport

Reimbursement of operators – the new DfT Guidance

Fiammetta Gordon, Head of Economics of Regional & Local Transport Division, Department for Transport

- 10.30 Questions to DfT Panel
Adam Simmons and Fiammetta Gordon with:

Geoff Dawe, Economist – Economics of Buses and Local Transport Policy

David Reams, Economist – Economics of Buses and Local Transport Policy

Tracey Sedgley, Head of Branch – Concessionary Travel Policy

Shamanthy Ganeshan, Economist – Concessionary Travel Policy

- 10.50 Coffee

SESSION 2

Calculating reimbursement payments

- 11.10 The ITS research project for DfT – the key conclusions

Peter Mackie, Research Professor, Institute for Transport Studies, Leeds University

- 11.40 Applying DfT Guidance – a practitioner's perspective

Chris Brown, Managing Director, MCL Transport Consultancy Ltd

- 12.00 Reimbursement arrangements in Scotland
Gordon Hanning, Head of Concessionary Travel & Integrated Ticketing Unit, Transport Scotland

- 12.20 Questions

- 12.40 Lunch

SESSION 3

Putting concessionary fares policy into practice

- 13.40 Interactive panel discussion chaired by **Andrew Last, Director, Minnerva Ltd** featuring:

James Aspinall, CENTRO

Nick Ayland, Director, ITP Ltd

Speaker from TAS Partnership (invited)

Peter Shipp, Chairman, EYMS Group

- 14.40 Smartcards and concessionary travel – where have we got to, where are we going and when will we get there?
Jeremy Meal, Projects Director, MVA

- 15.00 Questions

- 15.10 Coffee

SESSION 4

Concessionary travel – the future

- 15.30 Andrew Last will set the context and suggest some key issues that will shape the future development of policy, before inviting the views of a panel featuring:

David Sparks, Leader, LGA Labour Group

Matthew Sinclair, Director, The Taxpayers' Alliance

Andrew Meaney, Head of Transport Team, OXERA

Greg Lewis, Programme Manager Communities & Society, Age UK

- 16.30 Close

Published programme subject to change

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3 WAYS TO BOOK

Please complete one registration form for each delegate

1. Book online at: TransportXtra.com/shop/events
2. Fax the completed booking form to: **020 7091 7966**
3. Post the booking form with payment to: **Local Transport Today Ltd, Apollo House, 359 Kennington Lane, London SE11 5QY**

PLEASE COMPLETE CLEARLY IN BLOCK CAPITALS

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PRICE INFORMATION

The fee is inclusive of papers, refreshments and lunch

Standard rate **£245 + VAT**

Additional delegate place **£175 + VAT**

PAYMENT DETAILS

All fees are payable in advance of the event.

Delegates may be refused admission if payment is not received prior to the event. Delegates who have not paid will be required to provide credit card details or supply a company cheque at registration. If you are registering within seven days of the event you **MUST** provide credit card details to enable us to process your booking. Payment can be made by cheque, credit card or BACS transfer. Cheques should be made payable to Local Transport Today Ltd.

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ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

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DATE AND VENUE

Thursday 4 November 2010

The Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre,
London SW1P

CONFIRMATION

You will receive a receipted VAT invoice and joining instructions which includes a map, directions and travel information. If your booking has not been acknowledged seven days prior to the event please contact us to confirm your booking has been received on 0845 270 7965.

CANCELLATION

If for any reason you are unable to attend, cancellations received in writing by 21.10.10 will receive a refund less an administrative charge of £100 + VAT. There will be no refunds for cancellations made after this date. Substitutions can be made at any time at no further cost.

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