

# BUDGET CUT ASSESSMENT FORM

W15

<b>Budget Cut Assessment Form</b> <b>CONCESSIONARY FARES</b>	Ref No W15	Responsible AD	Responsible Finance Manager	Responsible HR Manager	Responsible Lawyer	Responsible EIA Officer
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**Description of Proposal: Concessionary fares (Bus Passes) reduced to statutory requirements only.**

The Council must continue to implement the scheme as prescribed by the Government providing free off-peak local bus travel to eligible older and disabled people anywhere in England. The off peak period covers any time on a Saturday, Sunday or bank holiday, and from 9.30am to 11pm on any other day.

The current scheme includes a companion pass which is a discretion agreed by the Council. This proposal includes a number of options to try and manage down the anticipated growth in costs associated with this statutory scheme. These include:

- Returning to the statutory scheme levels by removing the discretionary elements; This means removal of the Disabled person Companion pass, where certain disabled users are issued a pass that allows a companion to travel with them. The companion would not travel free.
- The introduction of new ICT systems to reduce fraudulent use.
- reduced assumptions on inflation built in future years budgets

There are currently 635 disabled companion passes (July 2015) in Darlington. i.e. :

ENCTS Disability Companion pass holders	No
Blind or partially sighted	51
Has a learning disability	176
Long term disability/injury preventing ability to walk	326
No arms or lack of use of arms	1
Not further specified	17
Profoundly or severely deaf	11
Unfit to drive	49
Without speech	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>635</b>

These proposals do not guarantee savings but assist in managing demand in the annual negotiations regarding the cost of the service. These will reduce the numbers using the scheme to the statutory minimum and reducing any fraudulent use. The anticipated savings is expected to be £208,000 by 2019/20.

Human Resources Impacts		Asset Management Impacts	Decommissioning Costs	Cost Shunting
No. of posts to be deleted	0	Detail any released buildings/building space Identify disposal or requisition issues	In addition to HR and Asset costs identify any others e.g. early contract termination costs	Is there any known or potential to increase costs elsewhere within Council budgets
No. of potential redundancies	0	No impact	There will be processes to consider and implement in the removal of passes that will require staff resource to deliver.	Unknown at this stage. Children's and Adults services input required to develop impact assessment.
Estimated Redundancy costs	£0			

	Financial Summary				
	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Estimated reduction to budget	47,000	97,000	151,000	208,000	268,000
Redundancy Costs	0	0	0	0	0
Asset Implication					
Decommissioning Costs					
Known Cost Shunting					
Overheads	1,539	3,133	4,814	6,580	6,580
NET Budget Reduction	48,539	100,133	155,814	214,580	274,580

## Equality Impacts

Overview is EIA needed?			Protected Characteristics								
Put 'x' in relevant box if the proposal:		'x'	Comments, including any charge across the options. Include the number of people affected, where known	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Put 'x' in the box in the Impact column if there are positive (P) or negative (N) equality impacts. Leave box blank if there are no potential equality impacts</li> <li>Put L, M, H or ? in relevant column using following descriptions:            L = sustainable adjustment in daily routine            M = significant reorganisation or change            H = life changing or limiting impact on quality of life            ? = not known at this stage.</li> </ul>			Explain decision, level of impact and any change across the options		Yes	Brief Details	
Affects	Service users	x	As listed above 635 passes at last assessment date. (Therefore, 1270 people if the carer and disabled person is taken into account)		Impact	Level					
	Employees	x	Potential that staff will need to advise pass holders that they are no longer eligible and manage the circumstances. A clear process and system will be required with the appropriate advice.		P	N	L/M/H/?		Have Cumulative Impacts been identified?	Yes	Needs considering in conjunction with the proposal to change the assessment process for those applying for a disabled bus pass. This is 375 people within the 635 existing pass holders. The cumulative impact may be the loss of the companion disabled pass and a reassessment which results in the loss of the disabled pass as well.  The client groups affected here will be affected by welfare reform and other DBC charging and criteria changes. This will be identified as part of the individual discussions about impacts.  Childrens and adults services input required to develop impact assessment.
	The wider community			Age		x?	?	Anyone aged 5 or over can apply for a disabled bus pass. Therefore, pass holders are all ages, (unlike the bus pass for older people which is only available to people of state pension age).	Have unlawful impacts been identified?		None identified at this stage.
Significantly affects how services are delivered?				Race					Are there opportunities to advance equality?		
Have a significant effect on partner organisations?			x	Could impact on 3 <sup>rd</sup> sector organisations and health organisations.	Sex				Are there opportunities to foster good relations?		
Affect services known to be important to particular protected groups?			x	Childrens and Adults Services	Gender Reassignment				Have any other options been explored and discounted?		
Affect different protected groups in different ways?			x	Age and Disability	Disability		x	H	Potential that 635 pass holders will not have funded transport for companions. Pass holders may be required to fund via other sources having a financial implication.		
Relate to service areas with known inequalities				Religion or Belief							
				Sexual Orientation							
				Pregnancy or Maternity							
				Marriage/Civil Partnership							

MFTP – 2016/17 – Equality Screenings. This screening tool is to gather information on potential equality impacts to inform decision making. It is not an equality impact assessment. EIA will be done at a later stage where appropriate. All proposals must have an equality screen document. Decision makers must have equality screening information before any decision is taken. DBC is at risk of legal challenge if decision makers do not have this information.