Statutory Notice - Tees Valley Combined Authority English National Concessionary Travel Scheme 2026 - 2027

In accordance with Section 95 of the Transport Act 1985 and Section 150 of the Transport Act 2000, 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 to reimburse bus 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.

This scheme will come into effect on 1 April 2026 and continue until 31 March 2027, or earlier as amended. Payments will be based on the number of concessionary journeys made with each operator, the average adult fare for each operator and, a reimbursement factor based on the latest calculator and guidance from the Department for Transport (How to reimburse bus operators for concessionary travel - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)).

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.

The lead authority may vary enhancements to the scheme at any time as may be agreed between issuing authorities and the relevant operators. Operators will be given at least 28 days' notice of any changes to additional enhancements prior to their implementation date including any additional arrangements for reimbursement due as a result of any enhancement coming into place.

Enhancements to the Tees Valley concessionary fare scheme for 2026- 2027 currently include cheaper pre 9:30am fares and disabled person's companion passes across the whole of Tees Valley.

Should agreement on reimbursement not be reached with operators by 4 March 2026, 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 **27th November 2025** by: Interim Director of Infrastructure, Tees Valley Combined Authority

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