

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

26 NOVEMBER 2009

REPORT OF REGENERATION
AND TRANSPORT SELECT
COMMITTEE

CABINET DECISION

Regeneration and Transport – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Bob Cook

**EFFICIENCY, IMPROVEMENT AND TRANSFORMATION (EIT) REVIEW OF COMMISSIONING
AND PROVISION OF PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY TRANSPORT**

1. Summary

This report presents the findings of the Regeneration and Transport Select Committee following an EIT review of Commissioning and Provision of Public and Community Transport.

The review examined the role of the Authority in subsidising public transport and providing community transport for residents and considered how services could be further improved, while realising efficiency savings.

2. Recommendations

- R1 That Stockton Borough Council carry out a ‘Use It or Lose It’ campaign to encourage residents to use public transport services with a view to increasing bus patronage thereby seeking to reduce the subsidy required to support these services.**
- R2 That Officers enter into dual negotiations for the English National Concessionary Scheme Concession 2010 subsidy with the alternative option of introducing a reduced fare for pass holders travelling before 9.30am Monday – Friday.**
- R3 That the cost of the Pathfinder 16 – 19 year old half fare concessionary pass be increased from £5/£10 to £8 per annum for all pass holders in the first instance and this be reviewed annually.**
- R4 That the cost of seats on Home to School transport vehicles being sold to non eligible pupils be increased on an incremental basis over a three academic year period, to commence in 2010/11, from £65 to £80.00 per term in year 1 to a maximum of £100 per term by year three and thereafter reviewed annually.**
- R5 That, taking into account passenger usage rates and the need to maximise vehicle occupancy whilst retaining a responsive service, the following phased approach is recommended following consultation with all relevant parties including staff, unions and customers:**

(a) the hours of the Dial a Ride Service be reduced to daytime only Monday – Friday with alternative taxi arrangements on evenings, Saturdays and Sundays for those users who currently require this service to make regular journeys.

(b) the cost of the fare per trip be increased from £1.20/£1.50 to £1.70 per trip

(c) one of the two Dial a Ride vehicles to provide a semi scheduled service thereby seeking to increase vehicle occupancy

(d) That, in order to provide a more flexible and responsive service to users, Officers commence discussions with all relevant parties with a view to providing the Dial A Ride service through a registered contracted taxi scheme by October 2010, subject to appropriate safeguards being put in place to retain appropriate levels of passenger care and safety.

R6 That if further efficiency savings need to be achieved, the following options should be considered and prioritised by Cabinet against other service efficiencies:

(a) a reduction in Boroughbus subsidised services

(b) the discontinuation of the 16 – 19 year old half price concessionary fare pass after Aug 2010 if additional government funding is ceased.

R7 To ensure appropriate transport options are offered to customers, following a process of assessment that identifies this as a need, that are fair, equitable and robust.

R8 That Cabinet endorse that opportunities for Tees Valley or greater joint Authority provision of community transport services be examined in principle.

R9 That alternative management delivery models for the commissioning and providing public and community transport be explored.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

To reduce the impact on the rising public transport costs whilst ensuring appropriate amount of accessibility for those residents that rely on such transport.

4. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members with voting rights) should consider whether they have a personal interest in the item as defined in the Council's code of conduct (**paragraph 8**) and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with paragraph 9 of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest in the item, he/she must then consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest (**paragraphs 10 and 11 of the code of conduct**).

A Member with a prejudicial interest in any matter must withdraw from the room where the meeting considering the business is being held -

- in a case where the Member is attending a meeting (including a meeting of a select committee) but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or

giving evidence, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under statutory right or otherwise, immediately after making representations, answering questions or giving evidence as the case may be;

- in any other case, whenever it becomes apparent that the business is being considered at the meeting;

and must not exercise executive functions in relation to the matter and not seek improperly to influence the decision about the matter (**paragraph 12 of the Code**).

Further to the above, it should be noted that any Member attending a meeting of Cabinet, Select Committee etc; whether or not they are a Member of the Cabinet or Select Committee concerned, must declare any personal interest which they have in the business being considered at the meeting (unless the interest arises solely from the Member's membership of, or position of control or management on any other body to which the Member was appointed or nominated by the Council, or on any other body exercising functions of a public nature, when the interest only needs to be declared if and when the Member speaks on the matter), and if their interest is prejudicial, they must also leave the meeting room, subject to and in accordance with the provisions referred to above.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

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DETAIL

1. The attached report presents Cabinet with the findings of the EIT review of Commissioning and Provision of Public and Community Transport undertaken by the Regeneration & Transport Select Committee between June and November 2009.

2. The review formed part of a three year programme of EIT (Efficiency, Improvement and Transformation) reviews covering all services provided by the Council. The programme aims to ensure that all services are reviewed in a systematic way to ensure that they are provided in the most efficient manner, provide value for money and identify opportunities for service improvements and transformation. The Select Committee review examined provision of concessionary travel passes for public transport, the provision of supported services where there were no “commercial” service, and the provision of community transport. Community transport included transport to adult care facilities for those requiring it, a Dial a Ride service for those that cannot use public transport; and provision of home to school transport. The overall aims of the review were:

- To identify options for future strategy, policy and service improvement that will deliver efficiency savings and sustain/improve high quality outcomes for Stockton residents.
- Reduce impact on the rising public transport costs whilst ensuring appropriate amount of accessibility for those residents that rely on such transport.

3. Following consideration by Cabinet an action plan will be submitted to the Select Committee setting out how approved recommendations will be implemented detailing officers responsible for action and timescales.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4. It is estimated that recommendations one – five would save the Authority a maximum of £93,680 for year one, rising to a maximum of £153,700 by year three, as detailed below:

Service Area	Possible for Immediate Action	Potential Saving
English National Concessionary Travel Scheme	Charging a reduced fare pre 9.30am - dual negotiation for 2010	To be determined
Pathfinder Concessionary Travel	Introduce single tier charge at £8 per pass	Based on number of passes issued in 2008/9 £14,040
Boroughbus Contracts	Carry out a 'Use it or lose it' campaign	£0
Home to School Transport –	Increase cost of seat on school transport over a three year period, from £65 to £80 per term in the first year to a maximum of £100 term in year three	£17,640 for year 1 rising to £41,160 in year 3
Dial A Ride	Replace service with Taxi Scheme by October 2010	£36,500 in year 1 rising to £73,000 – excluding potential implementation costs
	Reduce Service to daytime only Monday to Saturday	£20,000
	Fare Increase from £1.20/£1.50 to £1.70 per trip	Based on number of journeys in 2008/9, and dependent on number of journeys previously charged at £1.20/£1.50 £2,200 - £5,500
	Semi Scheduled Service	Minimal

5. A further £187,000 could be realised from further efficiency options at a later stage by Cabinet, as indicated in recommendation six, although decisions would need to be prioritised against other service efficiencies.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6. Consultation will need to take place with Dial a Ride Staff, Unions, and Dial a Ride Registered Users

RISK ASSESSMENT

7. This scrutiny report is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

8. Economic Regeneration and Transport – provide a sustainable, effective transport network that supports regeneration and economic growth

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

9. The recommendations have been subjected to an Equality Impact Assessment and the recommendations at this stage have been assessed as having a positive impact on both

Age and Disability. A copy of the impact assessment has been placed in the Members' Library. It will be important, however, to review the impact of the recommendations as part of the monitoring of the Select Committee Review.

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

10. No specific consultation exercise was undertaken.

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Background Papers

None

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

Not ward specific

Property :

None