

**ANGUS COUNCIL****PLANNING AND TRANSPORT POLICY COMMITTEE****25 April 1996****SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF TRAVEL CONCESSION SCHEMES AND TAXICARD SCHEME****REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF PLANNING, TRANSPORT & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**Abstract: This report outlines the Travel Concesssion Schemes introduced by Angus Council on 1 April 1996. Changes to these Schemes since they were last reported to Committee in December 1995 are detailed together with progress on both the implementation of the Angus Council Travel Concession Schemes and the Taxicard Scheme.**

**1 RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Committee -

- 1.1 Note the introduction from 1 April 1996 of Concessionary Travel Schemes for Senior Citizens, Disabled Persons, Severely Disabled Persons, Blind Persons, Children aged 14 to 16 years and persons aged 16 to 18 years in full-time education. These Schemes to provide concessionary travel to Angus Council residents who are passengers for journeys within Angus or to/from Alyth, Blairgowrie, Coupar Angus and Dundee.
- 1.2 Note the withdrawal of the 14 to 16 year old and the 16 to 18 year old travel concession schemes from 1 July 1996, this being approved by Council as part of the budget review exercise.
- 1.3 Note the request from Operators for further discussions in respect of reimbursement for the Severely Disabled Travel Concession Scheme.
- 1.4 Note the arrangements made for travel within Dundee for Angus Council Concessionary Travel pass holders, in particular for journeys to Ninewells Hospital.
- 1.5 Agree to decline the offer from ScotRail for travel to all Angus Council Concessionary Travel Pass and Taxicard Holders to be permitted outside the Angus Council and Dundee boundaries namely to intermediate stations on route to and including the final destination of Aberdeen, Glasgow, Edinburgh and to continue negotiations for travel to be permitted on ScotRail services within Angus and to/from Dundee.
- 1.6 Agree to the Transitional Arrangements which have been made for the transfer from the Tayside Regional Council to the new Angus Council Concessionary Travel Schemes.
- 1.7 Note the progress made on the implementation of the Travel Concession Schemes and the Taxicard Scheme.

## 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to update Committee on the Travel Concession Schemes and Taxicard Scheme introduced by Angus Council on 1 April 1996. Since the Travel Concession Schemes were reported to Committee in December 1995 (Report 166/95) negotiations have taken place with bus operators and ScotRail, the results of these are outlined in this report. In addition, changes to the travel concession schemes have taken place as a result of the Council's budget review exercise, details of these are outlined together with an update on the Travel Concession Schemes and Taxicard Scheme.
- 2.2 Implementing the agreed schemes is a major exercise with, for example, in excess of 20,000 application forms and passes having been distributed and with processing on going.

## 3 TRAVEL CONCESSION SCHEMES

### Travel Concesssion Schemes introduced by Angus Council

- 3.1 When the Travel Concesssion Schemes were reported to Committee (Report No.166/95) various options were put forward. The preferred option was, in partnership with the new Dundee City and Perth and Kinross Councils, to operate Travel Concession Schemes similar to those provided by Tayside Regional Council and consequently to continue to permit travel on a Tayside-wide basis. Failing agreement being reached with the other new Councils, Angus Council's preferred option was for the introduction of schemes similar to the former Tayside Regional Council Schemes but curtailed to operate within Angus and to designated points outside Angus.

Negotiations with both Dundee City and Perth and Kinross Councils failed to reach agreement for the joint operation of Concessionary Travel Schemes therefore Angus Council has introduced its own Travel Concesssion Schemes based on the former Tayside Regional Council Schemes but curtailed to provide travel within Angus and to/from Alyth, Blairgowrie, Coupar Angus and Dundee.

- 3.2 The Travel Concession Schemes implemented by Angus Council are as follows:
- Senior Citizens
  - Disabled Persons
  - Severely Disabled Persons
  - Blind Persons
  - Children aged 14 to those under 16 years of age
  - Persons aged 16 years to those whose age does not exceed 18 years of age and who are undertaking full-time education

### Changes to the Travel Concession Schemes from 1 July 1996

- 3.3 As part of the Council's budget review exercise the Travel Concession Schemes provided by the Council were reassessed and in order to secure budget savings it was decided to withdraw the Concessionary Travel Schemes for the 14 to 16 year olds and also for those aged 16 to 18 years who were in full-time education. In order to avoid disruption to scholars and students these changes will take effect from the end of the current academic session and the concessions will be withdrawn from 30 June 1996. The savings to the Council in this respect are estimated to be £100,000 per annum.

### Re-imbusement to Operators

- 3.4 The Travel Concession Scheme Regulations 1986 require that the Council adopt reimbursement arrangements which should be formulated so that the costs to operators of providing concessions are met by payments made by the Local Authority to the operators with the objective being that operators should be "no better and no worse off" as a result of their participation in the Scheme. The regulations also indicate that due allowance is to be made for traffic generated by the Travel Concession Schemes (i.e. those who would not travel if they had to pay full fare). The generation factor compares price with demand and reimbursement is calculated based on an arc elasticity demand curve.
- 3.5 Negotiations have taken place with operators with regard to the Travel Concession Schemes. Strathtay Scottish, Meffans Coaches, Tayside Public Transport and G & N Wishart have expressed concern at the levels of reimbursement in respect of the generation factor to be used by the Council for the Severely Disabled Scheme. It has been agreed that this will be considered further once useage is assessed of the new Angus Council Concessionary Travel Schemes and in particular the Severely Disabled Scheme. Further discussions will take place in July/August 1996.

### Validity of Travel Concesssion passes for journeys within Dundee

- 3.6 The previous report on Travel Concession Schemes (166/95) highlighted the fact that while Angus Council Concessionary Pass holders could travel into Dundee for many Dundee City Centre would not be their final destination, for example a significant number of passholders may wish to travel to Ninewells Hospital.
- 3.7 In order to cater for such journeys within Dundee, arrangements have been made with Strathtay Scottish to permit Angus Council Concessionary passholders to travel within Dundee on any Strathtay service which operates between Angus and Dundee, this caters for travel on all the major corridors. In addition, travel will be pormitted on all Tayside Public Transport bus services between Dundee and Ninewells Hospital and also on Services 20/22 between Downfield and Dundee in order to provide a link from Auchterhouse and Bridgefoot to Dundee City Centre.

Validity of Travel Concession passes on ScotRail

- 3.8 While bus operators are required under the Transport Act 1985 to participate in the Council's Travel Concession Schemes, participation by ScotRail is not mandatory. Under the old Tayside Regional Council Travel Concession Schemes a financial agreement was reached with ScotRail for all Tayside Regional Council Concessionary Travel passes to be valid throughout Tayside and for the Senior Citizens Travel Concession Scheme to also allow travel to destinations outwith Tayside, namely Aberdeen, Newtonmore, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Oban and Fort William and intermediate stations and also Cowdenbeath and Edinburgh and intermediate stations. A summary of the journeys made from stations within Angus is shown below:

	Annual Journeys	% of Total
Wholly within Angus	5,473	3.3
Angus to Dundee	74,568	44.9
Angus to Perth and Kinross	8,762	5.3
Angus to stations outwith Tayside	77,285	46.5
Total	166,088	100.0

- 3.9 Negotiations with ScotRail for them to participate in the Angus Council Concessionary Travel Schemes has resulted in an offer being made to permit all concessionary travel pass holders and taxicard holders travel within the boundaries previously permitted under the old Tayside Regional Council Scheme to Senior Citizens i.e. travel to Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen etc. A 45% discount is being offered to the Council by ScotRail which would bring the annual claim by the Company to approximately £70,000 per annum. As there is some uncertainty as to the exact costs involved ScotRail have offered to limit the Council's liability to £70,000. ScotRail have asked that this offer be considered by Committee. In the meantime travel is restricted on ScotRail services to between stations within Angus and to/from Dundee, in line with the agreed boundaries for travel on local bus services.
- 3.10 The decision to continue to restrict travel on ScotRail to journeys within Angus or to/from Dundee was fully considered prior to the Travel Concession Schemes being previously reported to Committee. British Rail offer their own discount to Senior Citizens in the form of a Senior Citizens Railcard which permits holders to travel at 1/3 discount. In addition, in view of the fact that almost half the journeys being made from stations within Angus were for trips outside Tayside and the implication that this may serve to benefit the economies of communities outside Tayside at the expense of those locally, this Committee decided at its meeting on 6 December 1995 that travel should be restricted on ScotRail services to journeys wholly within Angus and to/from Dundee.

- 3.11 It is recommended that the decision reached by this Committee on 6 December 1995, that travel on ScotRail services should be restricted to journeys wholly within Angus and to/from Dundee, is upheld and this offer by ScotRail is declined. Negotiations can then go ahead with ScotRail in respect of finalising payments to the Company for travel by Concessionary passholders and Taxicard holders for journeys within the Angus and Dundee boundaries.

#### Transitional Period for the Re-issue of Travel Concession Passes

- 3.12 In order to provide a smooth transition for concessionary passholders from the old Tayside Regional Council Schemes to the new Angus Council Schemes and to enable the new Councils sufficient time to issue passes, consensus was reached between the three new Councils for a two month transitional period until 1 June 1996 when both the old Tayside Regional passes and the new Angus Council passes would be valid. During this period claims for reimbursement for the travel concession schemes will be paid to operators by the three new councils on the basis of the disaggregate budget rather than on actual useage as Operators are unable to split down their claims to each of the new authorities.
- 3.13 The re-issue of Concessionary Travel passes is now well underway. Appendix 1 details the Travel Concession Schemes provided by Angus Council, the procedure for re-issue of each pass, the criteria for eligibility and the area of availability and fares charged.

#### **4 TAXICARD SCHEME**

- 4.1 The Committee agreed at its meeting on 28 February 1996 (Report AC41/96 refers) to introduce a Taxicard Scheme to provide travel by taxi at subsidised rates for those who have a permanent disability and cannot use local bus services.
- 4.2 All former Tayside Regional Council Taxicard holders resident in Angus have been written to and by 1st April 1996 new passes had been issued to all those who had fully completed an application form. A number of applications are still outstanding but these are either due to individuals submitting them late or failure to provide the necessary information.
- 4.3 Since the Taxicard Scheme was reported to Committee a number of new operators in the Dundee area have joined the Taxicard Scheme. As a result of this the number of operators has risen from 9 to 17, these new operators being brought into the Angus Taxicard Scheme to serve users in the rural area around Dundee which now forms part of Angus.

#### **5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The Travel Concession Schemes and Taxicard Scheme outlined in this report do not result in additional financial implications, but uncertainty remains over the relationship between the disaggregated budget and actual usage together with future actions of the operators. Careful monitoring of the position will therefore be required and will be undertaken and a further report submitted to this Committee should it become apparent that expenditure cannot be contained within the Planning Transport and Economic Development Department revenue budget for 1996/97.

## 6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The Director of Law and Administration and Director of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

## 7 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 The re-issue of Travel Concession passes and Taxicards which is a major exercise is now well underway. It is recommended that the 'Transitional Arrangements' to accommodate the re-issue of the Concessionary Travel passes and the arrangements to permit passholders to travel within Dundee are approved by Committee.
- 7.2 The offer by ScotRail to permit travel for all Concessionary Travel passholders and Taxicard holders on services outwith the Angus and Dundee boundaries may in practice act to the detriment of the local economy. It is therefore recommended that travel on ScotRail is brought into line with the boundaries for travel on local bus services, to within Angus and to/from Dundee.
- 7.3 In view of the concern expressed by local bus service operators in respect of the level of reimbursement with regard to the generation factor to be used for the Severely Disabled Scheme, useage of the Scheme will be assessed and further discussions will take place with operators in July/August 1996.

## NOTE

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above Report.

AA/LEM/SP

Alex Anderson  
Director of Planning, Transport & Economic Development

## ANGUS COUNCIL - TRAVEL CONCESSION SCHEMES

Angus Council operate the following Travel Concession Schemes:-

- Senior Citizens
- Disabled Persons
- Severely Disabled Persons
- Blind Persons
- Children aged 14 to those whose age does not exceed 16 years (Scheme to be withdrawn from 30 June 1996)
- Persons aged 16 years of age to those whose age does not exceed 18 years of age and who are undergoing full-time education (Scheme to be withdrawn from 30 June 1996)

For all these Schemes the existing Tayside Regional Council passes are valid until 31 May 1996. New passes can be obtained over the next two months and are valid as detailed under each scheme. (Please note that if using the existing Tayside Regional pass on rail services after 1 April 1996 travel is only permitted on travel to/from stations in Angus or between Angus and Dundee, journeys cannot commence in Dundee. The new Angus pass allows unrestricted use of rail services throughout Angus and to/from Dundee.

### 1. SENIOR CITIZENS TRAVEL CONCESSION SCHEME

Eligibility: Available to men aged 65 years or over or women aged 60 years or over. Applicants must be permanently resident in Angus.

2. How to Apply for a New Pass: Application forms are available at all Post Offices/Sub-Post Offices within Angus, also at Alyth Post Office and the main Post Office in Dundee. Completed forms should be taken to the Post Office together with:-

- a passport sized photograph;
- £2.50 fee;
- the passholder's existing Tayside Regional Council pass.

Area of Availability/Fares Charged: This pass entitles the holder to travel at 1/4 fare on bus/rail service throughout Angus and to/from Dundee, Alyth, Coupar Angus or Blairgowrie. Within Dundee journeys can be made between any points on all Strathtay services which operate between Angus and Dundee. Travel is only permitted on Tayside Public Transport Services 20/22 between Downfield and Dundee and also on all services to Ninewells Hospital.

### 2. DISABLED PERSONS

Eligibility: Available to those with a permanent disability which results in considerable difficulty in walking, those with mental health problems, the profoundly deaf, those refused a driving licence on medical grounds and to those with ME which results in considerable difficulty in walking.

How to Apply: All existing passholders have been contacted by letter and sent an application form to complete. Completed forms are to be returned to the Transport Team. These will be processed and applicants sent a letter to take to any Post office in Angus, Alyth or the main Post Office in Dundee where a new pass will be issued free of charge.

Area of Availability/Fares Charged: This pass entitles the holder to travel for 10 pence on bus or free on train throughout Angus and to/from Dundee, Alyth, Coupar Angus or Blairgowrie. Within Dundee journeys can be made between any points on all Strathtay services which operate between Angus and Dundee. Travel is only permitted on Tayside Public Transport services 20/22 between Downfield and Dundee and also on all services to Ninewells Hospital.

### 3. SEVERELY DISABLED PERSONS

Eligibility: Available to those over five years of age who are profoundly deaf and without speech or those with moderate learning difficulties. Must be permanently resident in Angus.

How to Apply: All existing passholders have been contacted by letter and sent on application forms to complete. Completed forms are to be sent back to the Transport Team. Application will be processed and applicants then sent a letter to take to any Post Office in Angus, Alyth Post Office or the main Post Office in Dundee where a new pass will be issued free of charge.

Area of Availability/Fares Charged: This pass entitles the holder to travel free on any bus or train within Angus or to/from Dundee, Alyth, Coupar Angus or Blairgowrie. Within Dundee travel is permitted between any points on all Strathtay services operating between Angus and Dundee. Travel is only permitted on Tayside Public Transport Services 20/22 between Downfield and Dundee and also on all services to Ninewells Hospital.

### 4. BLIND PERSONS

Eligibility: Must be registered blind, at least five years of age and permanently resident in Angus.

How to Apply: Names/addresses of existing passholders have been passed to the Dundee and Angus Societies for the Blind. They will contact each passholder and issue passes directly. These passes are free of charge.

Area of Availability/Fares Charged: This pass entitles the holder to travel free on any bus or train with Angus or to/from Dundee, Alyth, Coupar Angus or Blairgowrie. Within Dundee travel is permitted between any points on all Strathtay services operating between Angus and Dundee. Travel is only permitted on Tayside Public Transport Services 20/22 between Downfield and Dundee and also on all services to Ninewells Hospital.



5. 14-16 YEAR OLD SCHEME  
16-18 YEAR OLD SCHEME

As part of the budget cutting exercise Angus Council has decided to withdraw these schemes from 30 June 1996, this coinciding with the end of the current academic year.

For all new applicants requiring application forms for any of the Travel Concession Schemes or for further information contact:-

Transport Team,  
Department of Planning, Transport & Economic Development,  
Angus Council,  
St. James House,  
St. James Road,  
FORFAR.  
DD8 2ZD

(Tel No. 01307-473700)

