



Subject:	Department for Infrastructure Consultation on Northern Ireland Concessionary Fares Scheme – Council Response
Date:	18th August 2023
Reporting Officer:	Siobhan Toland, Director City Services, City and Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Ann-Marie Mervyn, Performance and Improvement Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of main Issues
1.1	This paper provides an update on the recent Department of Infrastructure consultation on the Northern Ireland Concessionary Fares scheme.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to consider the attached draft Council response which will be subject to Council ratification.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The Department for Infrastructure currently funds free and half fare public transport at all times of the day for those who qualify for a SmartPass under the Northern Ireland Concessionary Fares Scheme. The aim of the Scheme is to promote accessible public transport for members of the community who are most at risk of social exclusion.

3.2	The Department for Infrastructure (Dfi) is currently consulting on a number of changes to the existing Concessionary Fares Scheme to ensure that it is financially sustainable in the longer term and available for those who are most vulnerable, or liable, to social exclusion. The consultation will close on 24th August.
3.3	The City and Neighbourhoods Services Department was asked by CMT to co-ordinate the response to the Dfi consultation across the Council. For ease of reporting, a template was designed which highlighted the areas that needed to be considered.
3.4	An information request was sent to colleagues across the Council via email on 4th July and a reminder was sent on 18th July. We received several responses which have now been collated and are attached. The Council's response includes responses and commentaries to specific Dfi options (pages 1-4), and a section for overarching comments (pages 5-7).
3.5	The Committee is asked to consider the draft Council response to this consultation.
	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p>
3.6	None specifically relating to the Council at this stage.
	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>
3.7	None specifically relating to the Council at this stage.
4.0	Document Attached
	Council Response to Dfi's NI Concessionary Fare consultation