

West Sussex County Council

Confirmation of Decision following call-in

The following decision was called in and considered by the **Environment and Communities** Scrutiny Committee on **2 July**. The Scrutiny Committee supported the decision **but made the comments set out at the end of the decision summary below**. The decision came into effect on **2 July**.

Decision Title & Ref No:	English National Concessionary Travel Scheme - Discretionary Rail Cards HI02 (20/21)
Cabinet Member responsible for Decision	Cllr Elkins - Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure
West Sussex Plan priority	A Prosperous Place
Electoral Divisions	All Divisions
Key Decision	Yes
Purpose	<p>The ENCTS provides statutory free off-peak bus travel for eligible older and disabled people.</p> <p>The County Council is reviewing all areas of discretionary expenditure including where it funds senior rail cards as an alternative to a free bus pass for eligible older residents of West Sussex.</p> <p>This is not a statutory duty and so may be discontinued.</p> <p>Users and other stakeholders have been consulted to help understand the impact of any changes to the current discretionary railcard offer. If this option is withdrawn, older residents will retain their entitlement to a free bus pass and may also choose to purchase a railcard for £30/year (or £70 for 3 years).</p>
Decision summary	<p>The Cabinet Member has considered the outcome of the consultation and endorsed the withdrawal of the current offer of a free senior rail card as an alternative to a free bus pass to eligible older West Sussex residents from October 2020.</p> <p>The decision was called-in. On 2 July 2020, the Environment and Communities Scrutiny Committee rejected the call-in but supported further work on mitigations to be carried out by officers. Also, that further work is carried out to advertise the availability of the concessionary railcard so that people know that they can still apply for it before October 2020.</p>
Interest and nature of interest declared	None
Service Contact	Bill Leath, Transport Bureau Manager - Tel: 033 022 25438

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Background Papers	See report for details