

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, NET**

**USE OF NET BY CONCESSIONARY PASS HOLDERS**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To inform the Committee of the usage of NET by concessionary pass holders.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

It is RECOMMENDED that the Committee notes this report.

- 3.** At the last meeting of the Committee it was requested by Members that a report be presented on the proportion of concessionary pass holders that currently use the tram system.
- 4.** The Concessionary Bus Travel Act, which came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008, provides that everyone aged 60 and over and disabled people in England are allowed free off peak travel on all local buses anywhere in the country. Under the scheme, passes are issued by local authorities to their residents and each local authority is required to reimburse local bus operators for travel by anyone with a concessionary pass commencing a bus journey from within their area. This legislation only applies to bus travel and, although local authorities are able to offer benefits above the statutory requirement to their residents, there is no requirement for them to offer free travel on trams.
- 5.** The contractual agreement for NET Line One requires that the Concessionaire for the scheme is permitted to participate in any travel concession scheme operated by the City and County Councils on a basis which is equitable and comparable to that on which local bus operators participate. On this basis, people over sixty who are City Council residents are entitled to free tram travel within the City Council area at all times except between 7.30 and 9.30am on weekdays, when they must pay full fare; disabled people are allowed to travel free at all times. County pass holders who are over sixty are allowed free travel between 9.30am and 4.00pm and after 6.00pm. During the restricted times half fare is payable; disabled people can travel free after 9.30am and pay half fare before this time. Concessionary pass holders who reside outside of the City or County are unable to benefit from these schemes.
- 6.** Since the commencement of tram operations in 2004, the number of concessionary fare pass users has risen by 74% and now these users make up more than 17% of total tram passengers (compared to less than 12% two years ago). In comparison, the proportion of elderly and disabled people using the bus in Nottingham has increased by 28% since 2004 and this group currently makes up 18% of bus users.

**DIRECTOR, NET**

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