

## CABINET – 25 JANUARY 2011

### ITEM 11 – OXFORDSHIRE CONCESSIONARY FARES SCHEME

#### *Additional Recommendation*

At its meeting on 16 November Cabinet agreed how companion passes were to be dealt with under the new scheme. The report (at paragraphs 12 & 13, together with the annex – these are set out below) made it very clear that the terms of eligibility be based on the Oxford City Council provision. Unfortunately the recommendation as agreed was ambiguous and for clarity Cabinet is asked to reconfirm their original decision on companion passes:

#### ***Cabinet is RECOMMENDED :***

***'to confirm its decision to offer companion passes to those residents who are eligible for a concessionary pass on grounds of disability and who are between the ages of 5 and 15.***

Extract of Information from Cabinet report dated 16 November 2010

.Companion Passes.

12. All Oxfordshire districts offer people who have disability which prevents them from travelling without assistance, a special pass which allows a companion to travel with them without paying a fare. Officers understand that less than 1% of passes issued are companion passes. The cost to the county council of this concession is thus likely to be very low, and there are likely to be significant benefits to the users of being able to travel with a companion. Officers therefore suggest that companion passes continue to be offered throughout the county.

13. However, terms of eligibility for these passes varies widely from district to district. The different terms are summarised in Annex 1. Officers recommend that the terms currently used by Oxford City Council be adopted. It should be noted that this will represent a reduction in availability in South Oxfordshire especially.

Annex 1

"Oxford City Council offers Companion Passes on a similar basis to Cherwell District Council. However, Oxford City Council automatically offers a Companion Pass to any eligible disabled concessionary pass-holder who is aged between five and 15. Oxfordshire County Council may wish to consider 'levelling-up' to this standard of provision (i.e. offering the companion 'add-on' to all Oxfordshire disabled residents (aged 5-15) who apply for a concessionary bus pass)."