
CONCESSIONARY BUS PASS RENEWALS

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 Members to consider the report of the Head of Revenue and Housing Management which proposes changing the date of renewal of Concessionary Bus Passes.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 When the County-wide travel concession was introduced in 1999/2000 Members felt that all passes should be renewed at the same date and that this date should be 1 April each year.
- 2.2 This process concentrates a huge amount of work into a short period of time when the Revenue and Housing Management team are at their busiest with Council Tax and Business Rate billing, Housing Rent increases and the despatch of Housing Benefit notifications. This usually results in the need to employ temporary staff or overtime working at enhanced pay rates.

3 PROPOSAL

- 3.1 The Head of Service has identified a trough in the work plan for the Division and it is proposed to move the renewal date from April to October each year so that the pass renewals for around 6,500 residents can be dealt with in a planned manner. This would alleviate the need for overtime working.

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Essex County Council's travel consultants, MCL Ltd, advise that there are no financial implications attached to this proposal, either to the County Council or this District, as recharges are assessed on pass usage and are, in any case, made on a quarterly basis. In fact, it transpires that most other Essex authorities avoid the April renewal window.

5 RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

To renew concessionary bus passes for an 18 month period with expiry in September 2005 and then annually thereafter.

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Background Papers:

None

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