

Report of	Meeting	Date
Monitoring Officer	Executive Cabinet	12 November 2009

## CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL SCHEME

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

- As the Monitoring Officer I am required by law to prepare a report when a finding of maladministration has been made against the Council and this report meets that legal obligation.

### RECOMMENDATION(S)

- That the Cabinet formally report that no further action need be taken beyond that already implemented.

### REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

(If the recommendations are accepted)

- The Local Government Ombudsman has already accepted that the steps taken by the Council are sufficient.

### CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Put Chorley at the heart of regional economic development in the Central Lancashire sub-region		Develop local solutions to climate change.	
Improving equality of opportunity and life chances		Develop the Character and feel of Chorley as a good place to live	
Involving people in their communities		Ensure Chorley Borough Council is a performing organization	✓

### BACKGROUND

- In April 2008 this Council along with every Council in Lancashire adopted a new Concessionary Travel Scheme in line with the scheme adopted nationally. For most people that scheme represented a substantial improvement on concessions which were previously available. However the previous Discretionary Travel Scheme did have some advantages in respect of travel prior to 9.30am.
- The RNIB submitted complaints to the Ombudsman on behalf of complainants living in various parts of the country about the loss of the discretionary element of concessionary

travel schemes. In Lancashire complaints were made against Chorley, South Ribble and Ribble Valley Councils. Those Councils were chosen purely because complainants lived in those areas. A copy of the report prepared by the Ombudsman is attached. In his report the Ombudsman finds maladministration by each of the Council's against whom the complaint was made.

7. Across Lancashire concessionary pre 9.30am travel for disabled people and their companions was reintroduced from October 2008. The Council has also agreed to pay the complainants £100 in respect of their time and trouble and the Ombudsman has indicated that he is satisfied with this resolution.
8. The Executive is bound by law to report on the action it proposes to take having received my report. In the unusual circumstances of this case whereby the Ombudsman has already approved the action taken it may well be that the Cabinet simply wishes to confirm the action already taken.

ANDREW DOCHERTY  
MONITORING OFFICER

There are no background papers to this report.

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