

7. Concessionary Fares

Head of Service: Andy Foyne, Head of Economic Development, Planning & Transport

Lead Officer: Nigel Collins, Transport Strategy Officer

Contact Details: nigel.collins@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01935) 462591

Purpose of Report

The Audit Committee in reviewing risks in October 2007 voiced concerns at the increasing costs of the Concessionary Fares Scheme and requested assurance that controls were in place to manage the scheme effectively. South West Audit Partnership reviewed the scheme and their report is attached at Appendix A (pages 19-23) and action plan at Appendix B (pages 24-25).

Somerset County Council administrates the scheme on behalf of the Somerset Districts and Mark Pedlar will be attending the Audit Committee to update members on the actions taken since the Concessionary Fares audit and answer any questions.

Appendix C (page 26) shows the rising costs of the scheme and the number of passes issued. Unfortunately there is not enough data as yet to assess fully the impact of the country-wide scheme. However, a further £107,000 has been added to the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2009/10 as it is expected that costs will increase further next year.

Recommendations

That members note the progress achieved against the Audit Report recommendations and the current position on the Concessionary Fares Scheme.

Background Papers: *Internal Audit Report – Concessionary Travel 2007/2008 – February 2008.*
