

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (INTERNAL)**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 FEBRUARY 2012 AT 2:00PM**

Present: Councillors Yvonne Clarkson (Chairman); Michael McVeigh; Norman Williams (Deputy Chairman in the Chair for Item 1 only) and Felicity Wilson.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Brian Dixon; John Park and Dave Smith.

Officers: Penny Mell, Head of Policy and Transformation; Joanne Wagstaffe, Director Resources and Transformation; Tim Capper, Democratic Services Manager and Clive Willoughby, Member Services Technical Support Officer.

**OSC Int 33/11**     **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2012 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Deputy Chairman.

**OSC Int 34/11**     **Declarations of Interest**

Councillors Yvonne Clarkson; Michael McVeigh; Norman Williams and Felicity Wilson declared a Personal Interest in Agenda Item 6 due to being eligible for Concessionary Travel .

**OSC Int 35/11**     **Discretionary Concessionary Travel Scheme – Consultation Feedback**

The Head of Policy and Transformation introduced a report to Committee on the feedback and recommendations following the Discretionary Concessionary Travel Scheme Consultation exercise conducted by the Task and Finish Group.

A discussion then took place during which Members commented on the thoroughness of the report and the high response rate from service users.

It was stated that very few authorities in the Country continue to operate a Discretionary Concessionary Travel Scheme and that Copeland was the last in Cumbria to do so.

Committee then considered the three options put forward in the report:-

- a) To withdraw the Scheme completely.
- b) To keep the Scheme as it is, and
- c) A revised Scheme. This was the preferred option from the Task and Finish Group and included a number of changes, including:- Changing the Eligibility criteria with regard to age for the Scheme; Removing the Senior Rail Card Option and increasing the value of vouchers; and Leaving the current disabled eligibility unchanged.

**RESOLVED** – That Option c) A revised scheme, be recommended to the Executive.

Members then considered a number of mitigating actions proposed alongside those for the Discretionary Concessionary Travel Scheme.

It was **RESOLVED** to:

- 1) undertake to promote all transport options available across Copeland,
- 2) continue to work with key partners to understand transport need and influence transport provision within the District,
- 3) investigate ways to promote the take up of the Pension Credit,
- 4) proactively monitor the take up of the Scheme,
- 5) actively investigate opportunities to provide support to sustainable and inclusive community transport schemes in future in order to promote equality, and
- 6) conduct a post implementation review within 6 months of the implementation of the revised scheme.

The meeting closed at 2:35pm

Chairman .....

Date .....