



Subject:	Notice of Motion : Concessionary Travel Pass – Responses from the Minister for Infrastructure/Minister for Finance
Date:	17 th February, 2017
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To consider the responses from the Minister for Infrastructure and the Minister for Finance in relation to the Council's motion on the Concessionary Travel Pass.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to; <ul style="list-style-type: none">Note the responses and take any such action as may be determined.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> The Council, at its meeting on 3rd January, passed the following motion on the Concessionary Travel Pass, which had been proposed by Councillor Heading and seconded by Councillor McCusker: "This Council notes the recent establishment of the Smart Pass Equality Campaign, endorses its call for the full fare concessionary travel pass to be issued to all people who are

<p>3.2</p> <p>3.3</p> <p>3.4</p> <p>3.5</p>	<p>unable to drive for medical reasons and agrees to write to the Minister for Infrastructure and the Minister for Finance urging them to implement this extension as soon as possible."</p> <p>Responses have now been received from both Ministers, copies of which are attached (Appendix 1 & 2). Minister Hazzard states that, currently, anyone who has had a driving licence refused or revoked on medical grounds can avail of a half fare travel concession and points out that everyone in Northern Ireland can avail of full fare concessionary travel once they reach the age of 60. The Minister adds that, whilst he is sympathetic towards extending the Concessionary Fares Scheme to provide full fare concessionary travel for those people who are under the age of 60 and are unable to drive on medical grounds, there are already numerous competing priorities for resources across his Department. As such, any extension to the concessionary fares scheme could not be considered at this time.</p> <p>Minister Ó Muilleoir reiterates the comments which have been made by the Minister for Infrastructure, that a person who has had a driving licence refused or revoked on medical grounds can avail of a half fare travel concession and that everyone in Northern Ireland can avail of full fare concessionary travel once they reach the age of 60. He concludes by recommending that the Council should, in future, liaise with the Minister for Infrastructure around the concessionary fares scheme, as that issue falls within his area of responsibility.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> None</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> None</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Documents Attached</p>
	<p>Appendix 1 - Responses from the Minister for Infrastructure and the Appendix 2 – Response from the Minister for Finance</p>