

## General Assembly Debates

### Concessionary Fares Scheme

#### Amber Valley Borough Council

Proposes "That this Association

- recognises the severe problems that are being experienced by a large number of member authorities due to the shortfalls in central government funding for the concessionary fares scheme.
- that in 2008-2009 approximately 50 councils experienced shortfalls and that this number is likely to increase over the course of this year as the costs of the scheme increase faster than the grant.
- notes the Government's admission that the current system is not fit for purpose and that it is undertaking a review to put in place a better system for 2011 onwards.
- believes that the proposed course of action is inadequate given the number of member authorities affected, the size of the shortfall and the fact that in a number of cases jobs and services elsewhere may have to be cut to meet the shortfall.
- therefore resolves to formally request that the Government takes immediate action to address this problem by ensuring that the scheme is fully funded".

The Amber Valley Motion is supported by similar motions from Preston City Council (15 May), Northamptonshire County Council (18 May), Wokingham Borough (18 May).

#### *LGA Comments*

*This motion would be very helpful in reiterating the LGA's lobbying to ensure that all councils are fully funded for the English National Concessionary Fares Scheme.*

*Over the last year, the LGA has:*

- *Secured a public commitment from Ministers to explore the possibility of revisiting the special grant funding for 2010/2011 to achieve a more equitable distribution.*
- *Argued that government's current consultation on arrangements for administration of the scheme should not distract from resolving funding issues; and expressed concern at slow progress of consultation on funding and reimbursement issues.*
- *Set up a network involving over fifty councils to campaign on funding issues and to inform and support LGA lobbying.*

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*This work has been led by Cllrs David Sparks, Jim Harker, Richard Knowles and John Whitelegg as office holders of the Regeneration & Transport Board.*

*If the motion were passed, the LGA would continue with, and step up its efforts to seek a resolution to the funding issues highlighted.*

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