

# London Councils' Transport & Environment Committee

## Freedom Pass at age 60

Item 17  
no:

<b>Report by:</b>	Stephen Benton	<b>Job title:</b>	Programme Director, Transport & Mobility
<b>Date:</b>	14 June 2012		
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Stephen Benton		
<b>Telephone:</b>	020 7934 9908	<b>Email:</b>	Stephen.benton@londoncouncils.gov.uk

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### Summary

This report informs members of the position with regard to the Mayor's manifesto commitment to reinstate the age of eligibility for Freedom pass to 60.

### Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to note the position

In April 2010, the then Government changed the age at which a person was entitled to an older person's concessionary travel pass from age 60 to the age at which a woman would receive her state pension. This age was set to increase in stages so that people born in 1955 would not get their concessionary travel pass until they were 65. The current Government speeded up this process in the Pensions Act 2011 so that the eligible age is now moving to 66. At present the gap between age 60 and the national age of entitlement is just over 1 year but by 2014 it will reach the maximum 6 years

During the mayoral election campaign both Boris Johnson and Ken Livingstone proposed that the age of eligibility should be brought back to 60. With the election of Boris Johnson, Transport for London are now considering how they might implement this commitment to issue concessionary passes at 60.

As this is a Mayoral initiative and there is no statutory requirement to offer the pass at age 60, there is no need for boroughs or London Councils to do anything to make this happen. Although London Councils will not be running the age 60 free travel pass scheme it is clearly in our interest for there to be a seamless service to the public, which prevents people being needlessly rejected because they have completed the wrong form and which allows for a virtually automatic transfer

from the Mayor's scheme to the statutory scheme, subject to a check on continued residency in London.

London Councils has been engaging with TfL to establish whether they would wish to use the Freedom Pass contractor including the database system and card issuing facility. Whilst this would have a number of advantages in creating a seamless service, it has not proved possible because of TfL's requirement that the age 60 free travel pass should have an expiry date which is coterminous with the statutory entitlement date. As neither London Councils nor its contractor has the ability to do this, TfL has decided to use its own contractor. However it has agreed that we should explore being able to transfer data between the two schemes: initially this is to prevent people holding a disabled Freedom Pass and an age 60 free travel pass at the same time. Later just before the statutory entitlement age, there could be a transfer of data to allow the issue of a statutory pass using an administrative process rather than require people to reapply on a new form with a new photograph. TfL will ensure that the data processing statement in its application process allows for this.

It is expected TfL will seek to introduce this scheme by the end of 2012. London Councils and TfL will continue to liaise over data sharing issues and over publicity.

### **Financial Implications**

This is a mayoral initiative and so will be funded by the Mayor and TfL.

### **Legal implications**

London boroughs have no statutory obligation to provide a concessionary travel pass between the age of 60 and the age at which a woman would receive the state pension.

### **Equalities implications**

None for London Councils

### **Recommendations**

The Committee is recommended to note the position

### **Appendices**

### **Background papers**