

# Swindon Borough Council Travel Concession Scheme Arrangements for 2008/2009 from 1st April 2008

## New Applicant

These notes are for the guidance of qualified residents of the Borough of Swindon **and should be read carefully before application is made**

### How to apply – New Applicant

To join the concessionary travel scheme you can either:

- Apply in person at Swindon Direct, One Stop Shop with your proof of entitlement.
- Or using Online Forms at [www.swindon.gov.uk](http://www.swindon.gov.uk). When your pass is ready to collect you will need to bring your proof of entitlement.

Swindon Direct, One Stop Shop is open Mon, Tues, Wed & Friday 8am to 6pm, Thursday 8am to 8pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm.

For further information telephone Swindon 445500 Mon – Fri 8am to 8pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm.

**Please note** the Council is not liable to reimburse any costs incurred from applicants in proving entitlement.

### Information and advice

You can also get information at the Council Offices in Haydon Wick, Highworth, Stratton St Margaret and Wroughton. We have also informed organisations such as Age Concern and the Swindon Coalition Of Disabled People as well as numerous clubs, day centres, residential and nursing homes about the scheme so you may be able to talk about concessionary travel there as well.

### Who Qualifies?

**Permanent** Residents in the Borough who are either:

- (a) Women over 60 years of age.
  - (b) Men over 60 years of age.
- or a person who,**
- (i) Is severely sight impaired (blind) or partially sighted
  - (ii) Is profoundly or severely deaf
  - (iii) Is without speech
  - (iv) has a disability, or has suffered an injury, which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on his/her ability to walk
  - (v) does not have arms or has long-term loss of the use of both arms
  - (vi) has a learning disability, that is, a state of arrested or incomplete development of mind which includes significant impairment of intelligence and social functioning
  - (vii) would, if he/she applied for the grant of a licence to drive a motor vehicle under Part III of the Road Traffic Act 1988, have his/her application refused pursuant to section 92 of the Act (physical fitness) otherwise than on the ground of persistent misuse of drugs or alcohol

- (viii) Is so severely disabled as to require the assistance of a companion in order to travel on public transport, Swindon Dial-A-Ride or other community transport.

### How do I prove my entitlement?

If you qualify due to age (a) or (b) you will be asked to produce proof of your age and address.

#### Examples of acceptable evidence:

**For Age:** passport, medical card, driving licence or other official documentary evidence.

**For Address:** driving licence, council tax bill, recent utility bill ie gas, electricity, telephone etc. Please note utility bills must be addressed to the applicant.

If you qualify under the disabled categories (i) to (viii), you will be asked to provide other information to support your application.

## **For people who are Eligible disabled and of fare-paying age:**

If you have a Vision Service Card (Severe sight impaired or partially sighted), Disabled Parking Badge, Higher Rate Mobility Component of DLA or War Pensioner's Mobility Supplement you will qualify for the New national bus pass or mobility vouchers.

If you do not have any of the above please contact Swindon Direct for further information.

## **How does the scheme work?**

There are two ways (**Options**) of getting help with the cost of transport.

You can only choose **ONE** option.

### **Option 1 – New National Bus Concession**

You can use this pass to travel for free off-peak on local buses anywhere in England.

### **Option 2 - Travel Voucher Scheme (Mobility Impaired)**

This option is for people of any age who have severe mobility problems and cannot use local public bus services. These vouchers are for users of Swindon Dial-A-Ride and other community transport. If you are wheelchair dependent you can use the vouchers to travel on certain taxis and private hire car operators. The vouchers **cannot** be used on local public bus services.

The vouchers £60 a year (pro rata) come in one book. Your photograph will be on the front of the booklet. Vouchers are used to pay towards the cost of your journey.

If you only use community transport services occasionally but are sometimes able to use local public bus services, you may find it better to choose Option 1.

## **Companion Allowance**

A Companion Allowance is available locally for people who are so severely disabled as to require assistance in order to travel on public transport, Swindon Dial-A-Ride or other community transport. You will be asked to provide information to support your application.

## **Blind Persons Bus Pass**

This is a bus pass for people registered as severely sight impaired (blind). You can use this pass to travel free of charge on bus services throughout Swindon and Wiltshire at any time. You will be charged if you travel before 9.30am outside of Swindon and Wiltshire. If you choose to have a companion bus pass you will not be able to use it before 9.30am.

## **Limits of use:**

Options 1 will be accepted from 0930 to 23.00 on Mondays to Fridays. It can be used at any time on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holiday.

Option 2 can be used to travel at any time.

Your pass normally takes about 7 working days to process once we have received your application.


## **Forms should be returned in person to:**

Swindon Direct  
One Stop Shop  
Wat Tyler House  
Princes Street  
Swindon  
SN1 2JG

## **Or by post to:**

Concessionary Travel  
Civic Offices  
Euclid Street  
Swindon  
SN1 2JH

## **Data Protection Act**

 The information you provide will be used to administer the Concessionary Travel Scheme and may be disclosed or shared with Internal Audit Department of Swindon Borough Council for the purposes of preventing and detecting fraud.

Under the Data Protection Act you can see your own personal information. If you would like to know more about this, please ask for our leaflet 'Access to your personal information'. Or contact the Data Protection Officer at Swindon Borough Council, Civic Offices, Euclid Street, Swindon, SN1 2JH.