



For immediate use

Date: 12 January 2012

## Concessionary travel tokens must be used before end of March 2012

West Oxfordshire residents are reminded that any concessionary travel tokens must be used by **31 March 2012**. After this date the tokens will cease to be valid.

Oxfordshire County Council, who took over running the concessionary travel scheme from the District Council last spring, removed the use of travel tokens from the service due to government grant cuts.

West Oxfordshire District Councillor, David Harvey said "It's important that people are aware that they are nearing the end of the 'grace period' for using up any previously issued travel tokens.

"Eligible residents are now issued with a free national bus pass. This can be used on all local scheduled bus services across England. During the week the bus pass can be used from 9am in Oxfordshire and from 9.30am in other areas. There are no time restrictions at weekends or on Bank Holidays."

Bus passes will continue to be issued from West Oxfordshire District Council's Town Centre Shop, Welch Way, Witney until 31 March 2012. From April residents will need to contact Oxfordshire County Council.

For more information call 01993 861000 or visit [www.westoxon.gov.uk/bus](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/bus)

### ENDS

#### Notes to editors:

- The government grant for the national concessionary fares scheme is now less than half what the Oxfordshire districts have spent previously.
- This shortfall in funding plus the County Council's overall financial position means that the cost of also offering travel tokens and railcards throughout Oxfordshire would incur an additional cost of £700,000 a year.
- The County Council consulted on the concessionary travel scheme in autumn 2010. This aided their decision that offering the alternatives to the free bus pass could not be financially justified.

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