



Service Deficit Mitigation Report

Service Directorate:	Planning and Transport – Concessionary Fares
Deficit amount:	£0.43m
Details of Deficit: (Problems/Key Issues/Background) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory scheme with bus operator reimbursement linked to concessionary bus pass use. • Journey numbers up in 2025/26 compared with 2024/25 (approx. 5%). • Increased journey numbers thought to be due to better weather; increased confidence in using buses post-COVID amongst older and disabled population; and on-going improvements in bus travel. • Reimbursement also linked to fares levels which have increased (cost inflation in the industry – operating costs e.g. driver costs that incurred higher NI costs) • Other Travel Concession Authorities in the region have been experiencing increased concessionary bus pass use (Devon and Wiltshire). 	
Mitigation already assumed: (Please include details of any mitigation used to bring it down to the level declared) <p>Issue has been raised with Department for Transport regional representative.</p>	
Further Mitigation needed:	
Conclusion: The English National Concessionary Travel Scheme is a statutory provision with reimbursement based on use. The fact that more older and disabled people are getting out and about, improving their wellbeing and contributing to the local economy is a positive outcome of this financial pressure. The issue has been raised with DfT to identify whether any	

government funding could be available to support this area but nothing identified to date.

Likelihood of success: