



AGENDA

For a meeting of the
ENGAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL
to be held on
FRIDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 2006
at
12.30 PM
in
COMMITTEE ROOM 3, COUNCIL OFFICES, ST PETER'S HILL, GRANTHAM
Duncan Kerr, Chief Executive

Panel Members:	Councillor Robert Conboy, Councillor Nick Craft, Councillor Mrs Joyce Gaffigan, Councillor Mano Nadarajah (Vice-Chairman), Councillor Norman Radley, Councillor Robert Murray Shorrocks, Councillor Michael Taylor (Chairman), Councillor Thomas John Webster and Councillor Avril Williams
Scrutiny Officer: Scrutiny Support Officer:	Paul Morrison 01476 406512 p.Morrison@southkesteven.gov.uk

Members of the Panel are invited to attend the above meeting to consider the items of business listed below.

- 1. TRAVEL CONCESSIONS**
Report by the Service Manager for Performance Management and Engagement.
(Enclosure)

WORKING STYLE OF SCRUTINY

The Role Of Scrutiny

- To provide a “critical friend” challenge to the Executive as well as external authorities and agencies
- To reflect the voice and concerns of the public and its communities
- Scrutiny Members should take the lead and own the Scrutiny Process on behalf of the public
- Scrutiny should make an impact on the delivery of public services

Remember...

- Scrutiny should be member led
- Any conclusions must be backed up by evidence
- Meetings should adopt an inquisitorial rather than adversarial style of traditional local government committees

REPORT TO ENGAGEMENT DSP

REPORT OF: MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANT

REPORT NO: MA2

DATE: NOVEMBER 2006

TITLE:	TRAVEL CONCESSIONS
FORWARD PLAN ITEM:	Yes
DATE WHEN FIRST APPEARED IN FORWARD PLAN:	Ongoing
KEY DECISION OR POLICY FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL:	Policy Framework Proposal

COUNCIL AIMS/PORTFOLIO HOLDER NAME AND DESIGNATION:	Councillor Paul Carpenter Portfolio: Access and Engagement
CORPORATE PRIORITY:	Y – BUS PASSES Z – TRAVEL VOUCHERS
CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS:	Minor
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT IMPLICATIONS:	This report is publicly available via the local democracy link of the Council's website.
BACKGROUND PAPERS:	Business Management Services – Travel Concessions

1. INTRODUCTION

The statutory free bus pass was introduced in April 2006, together with an alternative option for those eligible of travel vouchers. This report shows the position to-date with regard to customer take-up of the schemes,mnj and financial implications

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the take-up and cost of both schemes be monitored closely.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

BUS PASSES

The table below shows the current payments made to operators to date.

REIMBURSEMENT COSTS TO DATE

	April £	May £	June £	July £	August £	Sept £	Oct £		Total £ for Year
2005	8,970	7,630	8,823	8,672	8,868	8,528	8,267		106,500
2006	27,260	28,630	25,478	22,020	23,234	16,506	15,497		303,900 Estimate

Note the reimbursement figures for September and October are lower as information from one operator is still outstanding.

The above table shows that the annual average reimbursement cost per customer in 2005 was £20. If current trends continue, this is likely to rise to £50 per customer.

The above calculations are based on the current customer base, which is likely to increase during the year.

The table below shows that there is a greater take up of new bus passes per month compared with last year.

Comparison of no. of new bus passes issued to customers by month

	2005	2006
January	96	674
February	18	111
March	23	151
April	25	228
May	23	172
June	28	104
July	14	90
August	26	134
September	29	47
October	39	45
Total	321	1756

TRAVEL VOUCHERS

The popularity of travel vouchers has remained consistent. To date the following has been issued to customers:

	£18 books	£22 books	£28 books	Total
No of customers	9,649	1,510	1,946	13,105
Value £ Issued	£173,682	£33,220	£54,488	£261,390
Budget				£280,000

It is estimated that a possible 2,000 customers may take up vouchers during the year, bringing the issue value to £286,000. However, past experience shows that the redemption rate is likely to be in the region of 71%.

Allowing for a redemption rate of 75% this would calculate a projected spend of £196,043 against an original budget of £280,000. Although it should always be noted that customers may take up the service at any time.

4. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND ASSESSED

Not applicable.

5. COMMENTS OF DEPUTY SECTION 151 OFFICER

6. COMMENTS OF MONITORING OFFICER

None.

7. COMMENTS OF OTHER RELEVANT SERVICE MANAGER

None.

8. CONCLUSION/SUMMARY

9. CONTACT OFFICER

Sharon Yates