

concessionary travel scheme

CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL SCHEME

For Residents over 60 years of age,
Persons with Disabilities and their
Companions



WHO IS ENTITLED TO APPLY?

You are entitled to concessions if you are a resident of Wychavon District and you meet one of the following requirements:

- You are aged 60 or over
- You meet one of the disability categories detailed below; OR
- You are a companion/carer of a person with disabilities, who qualifies.

WHAT CONCESSIONS ARE AVAILABLE?

The Council provides the following concessions: -

Half Fare Bus Pass - this is available to:

- all residents of Wychavon aged 60 or over;
- disabled residents who meet the disability categories listed below; and
- to specified companions of concession holders

National Transport Tokens - these are available to:

- all residents aged 80 or over;
- to disabled residents who meet the disability categories listed below; &
- to specified companions of concession holders.

HOW CAN I USE MY CONCESSIONS?

Half Fare Bus Pass

Your bus pass allows you to travel for half fare on all journeys starting or finishing in Worcestershire not just in the district, but into all neighbouring counties. This means that you can travel throughout Worcestershire and into Warwickshire, Herefordshire, West Midlands, Gloucestershire, Staffordshire and Shropshire for half price. (Your journey must start from or finish in Worcestershire)

There is no limit to how many times you can use the pass in one year and it can be used on all registered bus services - a list is available on request. The pass can be used seven days a week and at all times but please note that many bus companies do not offer return tickets before 9.00am so you would need to purchase a single ticket if travelling early in the morning.

The pass must be shown to the driver on each occasion it is used, and you will then be required to pay half the cost of the journey.

The pass must be surrendered to the Council if no longer required, or if the holder ceases to be eligible. It is an offence for anyone, other than the authorised holder, to use the pass.

Travel Tokens

Travel Tokens will only be issued to residents who are over 80 years old, persons who meet the relevant disability criteria and their companions. Travel Tokens can be used on scheduled bus services and local rail services in full payment of the fare, and as part payment towards the cost of a Senior Citizen railcard. Some private bus companies and taxi operators will also accept tokens, although residents are advised to check on booking, or before travelling, that they can pay in tokens

You can use your tokens for journeys which cross the Wychavon District boundary, but your journey must start or finish within the District and the place you are travelling to should be in the vicinity of the district boundary.

Travel Tokens are equivalent to cash and you will be required to pay the full fare. These tokens are non-transferable and cannot be exchanged for cash.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR CONCESSIONS?

You will be required to complete an application form. A relative or friend can fill it in for you if necessary.

You can then take the completed application form to your local distribution centre

You will also need to take some proof of age or disability, for example your pension book, 'blue card' or Disability Living Allowance book. You must also take something with your signature on, to prove your identity and something to prove that you are a resident of the district.

CAN SOMEONE COLLECT MY CONCESSIONS ON MY BEHALF?

If you are eligible for tokens, these can be collected for you by someone else but you must complete an authorisation form and the person

collecting the concessions must take with them their own proof of identity as well as proof of your identification showing your address. Proof of your date of birth or disability must also be provided if it has not been previously.

Bus Passes have to be signed by the holder so must be collected in person.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR MY CONCESSIONS NEXT YEAR?

Once you are registered with the Council for Concessions there is no need to provide proof of eligibility again unless you change the criteria under which you are applying - for example if, once you reach 80 years of age, you wish to collect tokens instead of a bus pass, or if you become eligible for travel tokens due to a disability.

However, you will need to bring proof of identity with you each year. If you change your address you must inform the issuing officer at the time of collection and complete a change of circumstances form. You will need to provide evidence of your home address.

DISABILITY CATEGORIES AND EVIDENCE REQUIRED

You are entitled to concessions if you fall into one of the following categories. You will be required to provide proof or medical evidence.

A - 'blind or partially sighted'

This category covers those with a high degree of vision loss, but only those whose sight is so impaired that they would be able to register as blind or partially sighted.

Proof of registration with WCC social services or medical evidence that you are registerable on the blind and partially sighted register from an eye specialist (optometrist) is required.

B - 'profoundly and severely deaf'

This category only applies to those persons whose suffer a profound or severe loss of hearing.

Proof of registration with WCC social services or medical evidence that you are registerable from an aural specialist is required.

C - 'without speech'

This category includes only those people who are unable to communicate orally in any language, but does not include those whose speech may be slow or difficult to understand because, for example, of a severe stammer. Applications under this category must be supported by medical evidence from a suitable specialist.

D - 'has a disability, or has suffered an injury, which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on the applicants ability to walk'

This category covers those persons whose disability effects their ability to walk. Applicants in this category must be able to produce the following documentary evidence of eligibility:

- Higher rate mobility component of the Disability Living Allowance (DLA);
- War Pensioners mobility supplement;
- Higher rate of Attendance Allowance.
- Severe Disablement Allowance

OR

Applicants will need to provide medical evidence to support their claim that their walking ability is permanently and substantially impaired. This must be in the form of a signed statement from the applicant's doctor and in assessing the applicant the following must be considered:

- Whether the applicant cannot walk for distances up to 100m without stopping, severe discomfort or help from another person; or
- Whether a mobility aid, such as a wheelchair, crutches or walking frame is used.

The degree of disability must not fall far short of that required to qualify for the higher rate mobility component of the DLA.

E - 'does not have arms or has long term loss of the use of both arms'

This category includes upper limb double amputees and those with congenital absence of both arms. This covers those with deformity of both arms and those who have both arms but cannot use them to carry out day to day tasks.

Medical evidence, in the form of a Doctors statement, must be provided as proof of eligibility under this category.

F - 'has a learning disability, that is, a state of arrest or incomplete development of mind which includes significant impairment of intelligence and social functioning'

Applicants in this category will have a learning disability, which reduces their ability to understand new or complex information, a difficulty learning new skills and may be unable to cope independently. This disability must have started before adulthood and have a lasting effect on development. The person should be able to qualify for specialist services and may have had special educational provision.

The applicant's Doctor, Nurse or Social Worker must support applications under this category with a signed statement.

G - 'has had driving licence refused or revoked on the grounds of physical fitness, other than on the grounds of drugs or alcohol misuse'

This category applies to those who have had their driving licenses refused or revoked on the following grounds;

- Epilepsy, unless it is the type that does not pose a danger;
- Severe mental disorder;
- Liability to sudden attacks of giddiness or fainting;
- Inability to read a registration plate in good light at 20.5 meters, with lenses if worn;
- Other disabilities which are likely to result in danger to others if they drive a vehicle.

Evidence, such as the letter of refusal, is required.

COMPANIONS/CARERS

Specified companions can apply for concessions, if an eligible concession holder is not able to travel safely without the assistance of a companion. The companion must be issued with the same type of concession as the person that they are assisting.

Applicants must be able to produce proof of receipt of a carers allowance for the specified person

OR their application must be supported by a signed statement by a doctor or nurse.

DOCTORS STATEMENTS

It is the applicants responsibility to check that their Doctor is prepared to sign a statement. Some doctors may make a charge for this. Wychavon District Council does not refund the applicant in these circumstances.

WHERE CAN I GET FORMS, OR MORE INFORMATION?

All forms and further advice and information is available from:

**EVESHAM COMMUNITY
CONTACT CENTRE
ABBAY ROAD
EVESHAM**

**DROITWICH COMMUNITY
CONTACT CENTRE (COUNCIL SHOP)
44 HIGH STREET
DROITWICH**

**PERSHORE ONE STOP SHOP
CIVIC CENTRE
QUEEN ELIZABETH DRIVE
PERSHORE**

Or by telephoning

01386 565437

or e-mailing

service@wychavon.gov.uk