

To:

- Ward Councillors & ITA members
- Chairs and Vice Chairs of User Groups
- CEOs of Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield Chambers of Commerce
- PTEG Senior Management
- PTEG Operations Group
- Passenger Focus
- Age UK, Pensioner Forums etc.
- Parish Councils

Your Ref

Our Ref

Ask For **David Young**

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7 February 2014

Dear Colleague

SYPTE BUDGET CHALLENGES

Since 2010 SYITA/SYPTE has delivered cuts through efficiency savings and cutting 25% of the workforce, with minimal impact on the customer other than increasing child fares. This year Government has made further substantial cuts to Councils' budgets and this has had a direct impact on SYITA/SYPTE resulting in a 10% cut in the levy.

South Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority met on 6 February to set the 2014-15 Budget and reluctantly approved the proposals outlined below.

- Cutting grants to Community Transport services. However Operators will be able to substantially offset this by raising fares by 50p.
- From the end of April, discontinuing the express 638 bus service in Doncaster, which runs weekdays between Doncaster North and South Park & Ride sites via the town centre. The Park & Ride sites will continue to operate and First serve the North site with services 50/50A and the South site by service 55 between 07:00 and 19:00.
- Discontinuing the two Freebee bus services which run in Rotherham Town Centre and Sheffield City Centre from the end of April. Again there are many alternative services people can use at low cost, or no cost if a concessionary pass holder (also see below).
- Reducing SYPTE internal costs including cutting a further 45 jobs (a further 16% of the workforce).
- Revise the ENCTS concessionary travel local rules (for elderly people and people with disabilities) to bring us largely into line with the national scheme. This means:

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David Young

Interim Director of Strategy:
Julie Hurley

Principal Solicitor and Secretary:
Steve Davenport



- Scaling the weekday free travel times back to between 9:30 and 23:00. This will take effect from 31 March 2014. For elderly people this means they can no longer travel for free between 09:00 and 09:30 and for disabled people they will have to pay if they wish to travel prior to 09:30. Travel remains free on weekends and Bank Holidays.
- All ENCTS concessions will be removed from train services. This will take effect from Monday 31 March 2014. Instead customers can travel using the national rail discounted travel schemes (e.g. Senior RailCard) or for some people they can travel for free, but by bus.

On a more positive note, the above changes means that the ITA is retaining the 'with carer' pass (subject to the above time change) which allows those supporting the most disabled people to travel for free. It also allows us to freeze child fares at 70p for 2014/15. Furthermore, you may be interested to know that we are expecting to be able to announce better value day/week child and young person's tickets shortly.

Clearly any cuts are regrettable and we appreciate that these will be particularly unwelcome by those directly affected, however they do allow us to avoid further bus cuts than those described. Details are available on our Travel South Yorkshire website www.travelsouthyorkshire.com.

Yours sincerely



BEN STILL
INTERIM DIRECTOR GENERAL



DAVID YOUNG
DEPUTY INTERIM DIRECTOR GENERAL

cc: *Tom Finnegan-Smith, RMBC*
John Bann, SCC
Neil Firth, DMBC
Paul Bray, BMBC