

COUNCIL MEETING – 30 NOVEMBER 2009

Amendment to Motion F (2009/10)

(Amendments are in bold and italics, deletions have been struck through)

Councillor Newton has given notice that he will move in the following terms:

This Council notes:

1. The Labour Government is currently consulting on plans to review the last year of the 3-year special grant for concessionary fares to support the introduction of the English National Concession which could very well lead to the grant to London Councils being cut by up to £29 million a year;
2. ***with dismay that no other Parties supported Labour's proposals at London Councils to retain a surplus of £20M to offset future changes to Government and TfL grants. Labour supported this prudent move, whilst the Tories and Lib Dems voted it down***
3. ~~that any move by central Government threatens the future of the much-cherished Freedom Pass for elderly and disabled people;~~
4. that as the concessionary fares scheme in London is currently only 66% funded by Government grant and that if the special grant is withdrawn this would reduce to about 50%.
5. ***The specific bus grant was only ever intended to provide funding towards the extra cost imposed by the introduction of a statutory national bus concession. London has needed no more than £7M to fund this. Effectively, London Councils has received a £49M surplus per year in additional concessionary fares funding. That is why Labour supported retaining a surplus.***
6. with alarm that London Councils estimate that the possible shortfall in funding could equate to £18 on the average Council Tax bill at a time of economic hardship;
7. ***The Leader has spoken to Ministers and expressed her concern at any reduction in the grant.***

Believes

- 1. That the Freedom Pass is a much cherished scheme and Haringey, as one of the founding boroughs of the Freedom Pass is committed to its continuation**

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

1. Call upon the Minister of State at the Department of Transport, Sadiq Khan MP, to announce that he will not be withdrawing the special grant to London.
2. Urge ~~local MPs~~ To take part in the consultation as well as to write **writing** to Ministers and demand funding for London is maintained at the promised level.
3. **Continue to fight for resources for this borough and** support efforts London gets an equal share of future concessionary fare funding.

Proposed : Cllr George Meehan
Second: Cllr Ali Demirici