



# WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Meeting of an **INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION** will be held in LGF3 - Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham RG40 1BN on **TUESDAY 23 MAY 2023 AT 12.15 PM**

Susan Parsonage  
Chief Executive  
Published on 15 May 2023

Note: Non-Committee Members and members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting or participate in the meeting virtually, in line with the Council's Constitution. If you wish to participate either in person or virtually via Microsoft Teams please contact Democratic Services. The meeting can also be watched live using the following link:  
<https://youtube.com/live/KWhP-7jWgy0?feature=share>

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# WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

## Our Vision

***A great place to live, learn, work and grow and a great place to do business***

### Enriching Lives

- Champion outstanding education and enable our children and young people to achieve their full potential, regardless of their background.
- Support our residents to lead happy, healthy lives and provide access to good leisure facilities to complement an active lifestyle.
- Engage and involve our communities through arts and culture and create a sense of identity which people feel part of.
- Support growth in our local economy and help to build business.

### Safe, Strong, Communities

- Protect and safeguard our children, young and vulnerable people.
- Offer quality care and support, at the right time, to prevent the need for long term care.
- Nurture communities and help them to thrive.
- Ensure our borough and communities remain safe for all.

### A Clean and Green Borough

- Do all we can to become carbon neutral and sustainable for the future.
- Protect our borough, keep it clean and enhance our green areas.
- Reduce our waste, improve biodiversity and increase recycling.
- Connect our parks and open spaces with green cycleways.

### Right Homes, Right Places

- Offer quality, affordable, sustainable homes fit for the future.
- Build our fair share of housing with the right infrastructure to support and enable our borough to grow.
- Protect our unique places and preserve our natural environment.
- Help with your housing needs and support people to live independently in their own homes.

### Keeping the Borough Moving

- Maintain and improve our roads, footpaths and cycleways.
- Tackle traffic congestion, minimise delays and disruptions.
- Enable safe and sustainable travel around the borough with good transport infrastructure.
- Promote healthy alternative travel options and support our partners to offer affordable, accessible public transport with good network links.

### Changing the Way We Work for You

- Be relentlessly customer focussed.
- Work with our partners to provide efficient, effective, joined up services which are focussed around you.
- Communicate better with you, owning issues, updating on progress and responding appropriately as well as promoting what is happening in our Borough.
- Drive innovative digital ways of working that will connect our communities, businesses and customers to our services in a way that suits their needs.

For consideration by

Paul Fishwick, Executive Member for Active Travel, Transport and Highways

**Officers Present**

Rebecca Brooks, Community Transport Manager, Highways and Transport

Callum Wernham, Democratic & Electoral Services Specialist

IMD NO.	WARD	SUBJECT	
IMD 2023/10	None Specific	<b>WBC RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON MAYOR OF LONDON'S PROPOSED WITHDRAWAL OF TRAVELCARDS</b>	<b>5 - 10</b>

**CONTACT OFFICER**

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# Agenda Item IMD10

## INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION

REFERENCE IMD: IMD 2023/10

<b>TITLE</b>	WBC Response to Consultation on Mayor of London's Proposed Withdrawal of Travelcards
<b>DECISION TO BE MADE BY</b>	Executive Member for Active Travel, Transport and Highways - Paul Fishwick
<b>DATE, MEETING ROOM and TIME</b>	23 May 2023 LGF3 at 12:15
<b>WARD</b>	None Specific;
<b>DIRECTOR / KEY OFFICER</b>	Director, Place and Growth - Simon Dale

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT (Inc Strategic Outcomes)**

To gain approval for Wokingham Borough Council's response to the Mayor of London's public engagement to withdraw Day Travelcards. Day Travelcards can be purchased from any station within Wokingham Borough when travelling to London as an "add-on" to a standard national rail ticket. The Day Travelcard permits unlimited daily travel across Transport for London's (TfL) transport networks. TfL's transport network supported by the ticket includes the overground, underground, Elizabeth line, bus, tram, and docklands light railway. The tickets can also be used to get one third off River Services fares.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Executive Member for Active Travel, Transport and Highways agrees that Wokingham Borough Council's is unable to support the Mayor's proposal to withdraw the Day Travelcard, and urges the Mayor to consider the wider impacts of scheme, especially on areas outside of London, as set out within the letter of representation to the Mayor of London (Annex A to the report).

### **SUMMARY OF REPORT**

The Mayor of London is exploring the option of withdrawing Day Travelcards and as a result Transport for London are engaging with key stakeholders as part of the development of the impact assessment for the potential changes.

It is likely that the removal of the Day Travelcards will have a detrimental effect on Wokingham Borough residents who travel into and around London. The proposal will impact residents financially and have the potential to increase congestion, reduce air quality and amplify the climate emergency in Wokingham Borough if it goes ahead. The scheme may also put at risk the viability of schemes which the Council wishes to bring forward to improve walking and cycling in the borough. Furthermore, it is questioned if the likely increase in travel costs of up to 29% would result in the savings which TfL are striving to make or simply reduce demand for rail travel from areas such as Wokingham Borough.

For these reasons it is recommended that Wokingham Borough Council puts forward representations that do not support the withdrawal of Day Travelcards.

## Background

The Mayor of London is exploring the option of withdrawing Day Travelcards. The proposal is because of the impact of the pandemic on TfL's finances and their funding agreement with the government. The government requires TfL to develop and implement changes that will generate up to £1bn per year of additional income.

Day Travelcards can be purchased as add-on tickets to national rail tickets for unlimited travel across TfL's tube, tram, bus overground, underground, Elizabeth line and docklands light railway services. The tickets can also be used to get one third off River Services fares. By withdrawing the Day Travelcard provision this will increase the cost of travel in and around London for Wokingham Borough residents by up to 29%. Furthermore, the removal of the Day Travelcards provision will make travel to London less convenient and more difficult, by requiring the purchase of additional tickets on arrival in London.

Where travel is non-essential the reduced convenience and increased cost is more likely to disproportionately reduce demand for travel or cause residents to look for other ways to make their journeys, including driving to stations closer to London.

The wider impacts of the proposal are likely to be increased congestion, reduced air quality and amplification of the climate emergency in Wokingham Borough. Reduced demand for local rail travel will also affect the viability of future walking, cycling and public transport schemes which the Wokingham Borough Council aims to bring forward.

For these reasons it is recommended that Wokingham Borough Council puts forward the attached letter of representation that explains the Council's concerns and urges the Mayor to reconsider the wider impacts of scheme.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

***The Council faces unprecedented financial pressures as a result of; the longer term impact of the COVID-19 crisis, Brexit, the war in Ukraine and the general economic climate of rising prices and the increasing cost of debt. It is therefore imperative that Council resources are optimised and are focused on the vulnerable and on its highest priorities.***

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	n/a	n/a	n/a

#### **Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision**

The future viability of walking, cycle and public transport schemes which connect with local rail stations in Wokingham Borough.

<b>Cross-Council Implications</b>
It has the potential to affect the Council's ability to bring forward future schemes which may provide benefits to a number of other Council departments including Childrens Services, Adult Services, Climate Emergency Team, Environmental Health and Public Health Team.

<b>Public Sector Equality Duty</b>
An equalities assessment is not required as this IMD relates to representations to Transport for London on the withdrawal of one of their ticketing products. It would be for Transport for London to undertake an all-encompassing equalities impact assessment in relation to this change.

<b>SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES</b>	
<b>Director – Resources and Assets</b>	Any comments to be updated at meeting
<b>Monitoring Officer</b>	Any comments to be updated at meeting
<b>Leader of the Council</b>	Any comments to be updated at meeting

<b>Reasons for considering the report in Part 2</b>
N/A

<b>List of Background Papers</b>
Letter of Representation to Mayor of London

<b>Contact</b> Rebecca Brooks	<b>Service Place</b>
	<b>Email</b> rebecca.brooks@wokingham.gov.uk

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Telephone:  
 Email: paul.fishwick@wokingham.gov.uk  
 Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023



**WOKINGHAM  
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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Sadiq Khan  
 Mayor of London  
 Transport for London  
 London

Dear Mr Khan,

### Engagement to Withdraw Day Travelcards

Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) is writing to you to express concerns about your proposal to withdraw Day Travelcards. Whilst the Council understands that the impacts of the pandemic have been significant for public transport and that Transport for London is required to develop and implement changes that will generate up to £1bn per year of additional income, WBC does not see how the proposed changes to Day Travelcards will achieve this.

WBC shares your vision and ambition of the Mayor's Transport Strategy for a good public transport experience where public transport is the most efficient way for people to travel distances that are too long to walk and cycle. WBC also agrees that a seamless 'whole journey' experience will provide an attractive alternative to using the car. WBC does not agree that the Mayor's proposal will support this vision and ambition.

Wokingham Borough has six rail stations, five of which directly link to London and one of which, Twyford Station, is served by the TfL Elizabeth line. Residents in Wokingham Borough travel to London for many purposes including peak travel for employment and off-peak family leisure travel.

You mention that withdrawing Day Travelcards would mean customers travelling in a single day would have to use pay as you go (PAYG) using contactless or Oyster or buy paper tickets to travel on TfL services. For residents travelling from Twyford Station the Oyster ticket option is not available. For residents travelling from all Wokingham Borough stations, especially families with children, the proposal will mean making multiple purchases and more than likely additional paper ticket purchases. Inevitably journeys will become less seamless and less convenient between Wokingham and London than they currently are.

We truly understand the challenges which the pandemic has had on the economic viability of all public transport provisions, as Wokingham Borough has faced similar challenges. However, increasing the cost of travel significantly is likely to have a detrimental effect on the demand for rail travel and therefore amplify the financial situation not improve it.

The current cost for an adult to travel off-peak from Twyford Station to London with a Day Travelcard is £26.40, and the cost of an equivalent journey from Wokingham Station to London with a Day Travelcard is £32.40. Whilst the cost of travelling to underground stations in Zones 1 and 2 may be slightly cheaper, for travel in zones beyond these the cost increases by 27% from Twyford Station and by 29% from Wokingham Station should the Day Travelcard be removed.

#### Adult Off-Peak Return Journey

Journey from	To Paddington	Underground	Whole Journey
Twyford	£18.60	£2.70 contactless (Z1-2)	£21.30
		£6.70 cash (Z1-2)	£25.30
		£8.10 daily cap (Z1-2)	£26.70
		£14.90 daily cap (Z1-6)	£33.50 (+£7.10)
Wokingham	£26.80	£2.70 contactless (Z1-2)	£29.50
		£6.70 cash (Z1-2)	£33.50
		£8.10 daily cap (Z1-2)	£34.90
		£14.90 daily cap (Z1-6)	£41.70 (+£9.30)

Cost increases of 27-29% are significant, especially set against the backdrop of the current increases in cost of living which have resulted in residents having less disposal income. Off-peak leisure travel is likely to be non-essential travel and therefore any increases in cost are more likely to disproportionately reduce demand for travel or cause residents to look for other ways to make their journeys. It is thought more than likely residents who do wish to travel will look to do so by driving to stations closer to London where rail journeys are cheaper, even after accounting for the cost of parking.

WBC is committed to increasing active and sustainable travel, not only because it is more equitable but also because it helps tackle the climate emergency, improve air quality, and reduce congestion. The borough has ambitious plans as part of its Local Cycling and Walking Improvement Plan (LCWIP) and Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP). The plans look to increase accessibility to stations for those that walk, cycle and use buses. If demand for rail travel reduces, this puts at risk the viability of these future schemes. Furthermore, it facilitates a continued cycle of increased car travel.

It is for the above reasons that WBC is unable to support the Mayors proposal to withdraw the Day Travelcard and urges the Mayor to reconsider the true impacts of scheme.

Yours sincerely,

**Councillor Paul Fishwick**  
**Executive Member for Active Travel, Transport and Highways**