

21/3/11
15.50

PETITION

TOPIC; West Lancashire Pensioners' Forum wishes to draw the attention of West Lancashire Borough Council to the plight of clients of West Lancashire Dial-a-Ride following Council's decision of 23rd February, 2011 on concessionary travel, and to seek restoration of public funding for Dial-A-Ride services.

West Lancashire Dial-A-Ride responded to the concessionary travel consultation by saying that removing them from concessionary arrangements would be very serious. Dial-a-Ride is used by 1,000+ residents who cannot access public transport and do not use a car. 97% of journeys are provided under the scheme (i.e. free or 50p) and without the concession, a significant number of residents would be unable to pay the fares. Dial-a-Ride would not be able to absorb the loss of revenue and the service would terminate; without inclusion in the NowCard scheme it would be unable to provide any services.

In its Equality Policy Document WLBC committed itself to the following; "We will engage and involve communities in the way we plan and design our services to ensure that our service plans match the needs of the community as accurately as possible" and "We will seek to involve Members, employees, service users and our communities' in all that we do. We will ensure services are based on consultation and will also work in partnership with the Equality Target Groups to identify needs and delivering services to meet those needs".

Notwithstanding these fine words we see little or no evidence that Council's services to its most vulnerable, low-income residents match those needing Dial-A-Ride services now requiring payment from them of £1.90 for the first mile and 90p for each mile thereafter.

What Do You Want the Council To Do?

In the circumstances we describe above we Petition council to re-consider its commitments to delivering services to target groups and to restore public funding for Dial-A-Ride forthwith.

Lead Petitioner; Raymond Brookfield Esq, Secretary of the West Lancashire Pensioners' Forum. Email address [redacted]
Telephone [redacted] Home address [redacted], Halsall, Ormskirk, West Lancashire [redacted]

Signature; [redacted]

We, the undersigned, request West Lancashire Borough Council to consider this petition.