

**Council, Tuesday 15 December, 2009**

**Motion 3.1:** Councillor Andrew Harper

**Freedom Pass**

Council notes that the government has reopened the 2010/11 funding settlement for national bus concessions and proposes to cut the £58 million payment towards the cost of the Freedom Pass by half. The funding saved would then be spent outside the capital.

Council further notes that this is an alteration to the third year of a three-year agreement, and consequently London Boroughs have already set their budgets. Local authorities face an unexpected choice of cutting the Freedom Pass or using their already stretched budgets to meet the shortfall.

Council believes that to reopen an agreed financial settlement at this late hour is a disingenuous act by the Department of Transport and threatens the ability of older and disabled Londoners to use public transport.

Council believes the government's commitment to London is questionable given the capital is the only city to see a funding reduction and follows the rises in London's business rates to pay for reductions elsewhere in the country.

Therefore Council requests that the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport:

- Works with London Councils to fight the shifting of funding away from London
- Commits to keeping the Freedom Pass for the Borough of Barnet's residents
- Responds to the government's consultation on the changes by demanding that funding remains in place

Under Standing Order Part 4, Section 1, 31.5: if my item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting I ask that it be voted upon at the Council meeting.