

**NORTH EAST JOINT TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**  
**RECORD OF DELEGATED DECISION BY OFFICER**

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**1. Subject of Decision**

Introduction of £1 21 and under fares on Metro, Shields Ferry and Secured Bus from May 2023

**2. Delegation Reference (Refer to Meeting Minute Number or Delegation Scheme in the Constitution or Decision Notice)**

**JTC Procedure Rule 33 - Urgent Decisions:**

Where a decision needs to be taken urgently and it is not practical to convene a quorate meeting of the appropriate body (i.e. the Joint Transport Committee, or any other committee, sub-committee of the Joint Transport Committee), the Head of Paid Service, in consultation with the Proper Officer for Transport, the Chair (or in their absence the Vice Chair) of the relevant committee, the Chief Finance Officer and the Monitoring Officer has the authority to take an urgent decision. In such circumstances, the Head of Paid Service must report that decision to the next meeting of the appropriate decision-making body which would have otherwise made that decision.

This decision needs to be taken urgently as Transport North East has set a date of 7 May 2023 to launch the £1 offer across all buses in the region. In order to align with this and ensure a simple message for customers across the region, Nexus would like to implement the £1 offer on Metro, Shields Ferry and buses within our control from the same date.

This decision has been delegated to one or more officer(s) under:

(a) A specific express authorisation was given to the *Head of Paid Service / Monitoring Officer / Chief Finance Officer* by the *Joint Transport Committee* on *xx.xx.xxxx* to make and enter into appropriate contracts in relation to each project after specified consultation.

(b) a general authorisation to take such decisions **and**, the effect of the decision is to:

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- (i) grant a permission or licence;
- (ii) affect the rights of an individual; or
- (iii) award a contract or incur expenditure which, in either case, materially affects the Authority's financial position.
- (iv) approve the introduction of a £1 single fare for all those aged 21 and under across Metro, Shields Ferry and secured bus services from 7 May 2023.

**3. Name and Title of Decision Maker**

Patrick Melia, Head of Paid Service, NECA

**4. Details of any Conflict of Interest and any Dispensation granted in respect of such Interest**

None

**5. Executive Summary**

With the introduction of the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), Nexus plans to match the 21 and under-pricing that bus operators are set to introduce. Nexus will use this opportunity to simplify its product range aimed at young people aged 21 and under.

It is planned to expand the Pop Blue smartcard from its current age range of 16 to 18 to anyone aged 21 and under. Pricing will be revised to a simplified £1 single and £2.20 day cap. This will result in the removal from sale of the Pop 19-21 smartcard.

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The Junior Blue smartcard which is aimed at those aged 16 and under will continue to be offered, owing to the lower price point offered for a day's travel.

The changes proposed on Metro will be mirrored on Shields Ferry and the limited number of bus services (secured bus services) where Nexus takes the revenue risk and sets fares.

By ensuring services under Nexus' control are brought into alignment with the improvements bus services will see as a result of the BSIP, Nexus is ensuring that the overall public transport offering is as attractive as possible to young people, helping to ensure a more sustainable future for the region.

The TWSC Members present at the meeting on 6 April 2023 were supportive of the proposals contained in the attached report.

#### **6. Decision(s)**

##### **6(a)**

The Head of Paid Service, NECA, hereby:

- i. Confirms the approval of the withdrawal from sale of the Pop 19-21 card in lieu of an expanded Pop Blue card, offered to those aged 21 and under from 7 May 2023.
- ii. Approves the introduction of a £1 single fare for all those aged 21 and under across Metro, Shields Ferry and secured bus services from 7 May 2023.

##### **6(b) If Exempt or Confidential, please provide a reason:**

n/a

#### **7. Alternative options considered**

Nexus could do nothing in response to the developments associated with the BSIP. This would result in a less consistent ticket offer for young people aged 21 and under but would reduce the risk associated with Nexus' budget.

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**8. Reasons for the Decision(s)**

The proposals contained in this report are designed to ensure that Nexus (Metro, Shields Ferry and secured bus services) responds to the developments associated with the BSIP.

**9. Contact Officer**

Huw Lewis, Customer Services Director, Nexus  
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Martin Kearney, Managing Director, Nexus  
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**10. Date of Publication**

14 April 2023

**11. Date of Call-In Deadline**

21 April 2023 (5pm)

**12. Implementation Date**

24 April 2023

**Signature of the Decision-Maker**



Patrick Melia

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Please return the following to Emma Reynard in Democratic Services ([emmareynard@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:emmareynard@gateshead.gov.uk)) **within 2 working days of the decision having been taken.**

- A Word version of the completed Delegated Decision report
- A Word version of the completed Delegated Decision Record
- A scanned PDF version of the completed and signed Delegated Decision Record

The Delegated Decision will be published by Democratic Services within three working days of it being taken, and it will then be open to call-in for a further five working days.

**Decisions must not be implemented until the call-in process is completed.** Democratic Services officers will advise report authors and decision makers of the relevant deadlines for call-in.