

SATA

Scottish Accessible Transport Alliance

Scottish Charity No SC027600

Manifesto 2011 Briefing 2

Cuts in public funding leading to reductions in travel opportunities for disabled people

This statement follows the emergency resolution adopted unanimously at SATA's AGM in September 2010 and should be read in conjunction with SATA's 2011 Manifesto.

SATA is concerned that disabled people are becoming easy targets for cuts in transport services which will endanger or seriously limit their mobility and quality of life.

Examples:

- withdrawal of, or reductions in, rail concessions for disabled people by local authorities
- withdrawal of, or reductions in, taxi concessions for disabled people by local authorities
- charges by local authorities for issuing Blue Badge parking permits to disabled people previously issued free
- reductions in funding by local authorities for door-to-door transport services including those run by user-led voluntary agencies
- reductions in local authority funding for community transport agencies providing accessible transport services for disabled and elderly people
- UK Government cuts in funds available for improving access to rail stations and services
- possible limitations to the Scottish Government's current provisions of the Scotland-wide Free Bus Travel Concession Scheme and restrictions on eligibility to the scheme
- cuts in central and local government financial support for socially necessary but commercially unviable bus services particularly in rural areas

SATA notes the declared commitment of Government and local authorities under the DDA to equal opportunities for disabled people who are amongst those with the lowest incomes, are the least mobile and are the most disadvantaged in terms of health, education, employment, leisure and social well-being.

SATA calls on all public bodies in Scotland

(a) to take all necessary action to protect transport and transport-related services that affect disabled people

(b) to consider the full implications and knock-on effects of their actions in respect of any cuts

(c) to engage in full consultation with users and their representatives before any decisions on cuts are taken.

Note

The Scottish Accessible Transport Alliance (SATA) is a transport user led Scottish Charity (No SC027600) with over 80 corporate and individual members throughout Scotland in the voluntary, public and private sectors who are committed to the provision of improved transport and transport-related services for disabled people and people with reduced mobility.

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