

***The Freedom Pass is a ‘stealth tax on Londoners.’***

Conservative Cllr Daniel Moylan, Chair of the Transport and Environment Committee London Councils.

***The 24 Hour Freedom Pass is a ‘mad idea’ and ‘plain daft’***

Statement by Boris Johnson supporter Brian Cooke issued by Boris Johnson on 29 April 2008.

## ***Only Ken Livingstone will protect the Freedom Pass for Londoners and extend the Freedom Pass to enable free travel 24 hours a day.***

- Ken Livingstone first advocated free travel for pensioners as a Lambeth councillor in the early 1970s. He fought it to be included in Labour's manifesto as a GLC councillor and introduced the London-wide scheme Freedom Pass scheme across buses and Tube as Leader of the Greater London Council 1981.
- The Freedom Pass guarantees 1,49,975 older and disabled Londoners free travel on the tube, bus, train and tram in London. In contrast pensioners in counties that border London such as Surrey, Kent and Essex only travel free on buses.

## ***The Freedom Pass has been repeatedly attacked by Conservative councillors, Assembly Members and MPs***

- On 14<sup>th</sup> September 2006 the London Councils Transport and Environment Committee, chaired by Conservative councillor, Daniel Moylan, received a briefing which said they should lobby 'for the abolition of the London reserve scheme.' The reserve scheme ensures that the Mayor and Transport for London can guarantee the delivery of the Freedom Pass.
- On 29<sup>th</sup> January 2007 Conservative led London Councils sponsored a series of amendments to the Concessionary Bus Travel Bill in an attempt to abolish the reserve travel scheme which guarantees the Freedom Pass. This was led by Liberal Democrat Lord Bradshaw.
- On 6<sup>th</sup> February 2007, Conservative Cllr Phil Taylor, Ealing Councillor and deputy chair of Ealing's Finance and Performance Committee, said the Freedom Pass should be "re-targeted" away from most pensioners to the "very old".
- **On 5th June 2007 - London Councils Transport and Environment Committee, chaired by Conservative councillor, Daniel Moylan attacked the Freedom Pass, saying the Freedom Pass is a 'stealth tax on Londoners'.**
- On 6<sup>th</sup> February 2007 Conservative Deputy Chair of the London Assembly Transport Committee, Roger Evans AM said, 'The problem with this scheme (the Freedom Pass) is the large number of people who claim their pass but don't use it.'
- On Monday 14th May 2007 the Freedom Pass was criticised by a number of Conservative MPs during the debate on the Concessionary Bus Travel Bill, including Romford MP, Andrew Rosindell, who said, 'The system needs a review and I hope that the Minister will consider that'.
- Abolishing the Freedom Pass 'reserve scheme' would take power over the funding for the Freedom Pass away from elected London government and pass it to Whitehall. This means the Secretary of State for Transport could impose cuts or scrap the scheme as it currently exists.
- On 28 April 2008, Boris Johnson's campaign issued a statement from Johnson's supporter Brian Cooke, describing Ken Livingstone's policy of extending the Freedom Pass to before 9am as a '**mad idea**' and '**plain daft**'.

<http://www.kenlivingstone.com/page/-/Johnson%20Cooke%20statement.pdf>

## ***Only Ken consistently defends the Freedom Pass***

- Ken Livingstone has repeatedly spoken up for the Freedom Pass and has mobilised thousands of Londoners including 15 pensioners groups including Help the Aged, 10 disabled organisations, trade unions including Unite, GMB and CWU, and over 30 London Labour MPs to defend the Freedom Pass.
- As his record shows, only Ken Livingstone can be relied on to maintain the Freedom Pass
- Ken Livingstone will fund the extension of the Freedom Pass to enable pensioners and disabled Londoners to travel free 24 hours a day.
- Boris Johnson's policy on the Freedom Pass relies on the agreement of the London boroughs – only Ken has committed to extending it to a 24 hour service through the Mayor's budget, guaranteeing it will be extended so that older Londoners can use it before 9am.