

**Warwickshire County Council**  
**Concessionary Travel Scheme - proposed companion enhancement**  
**Revised December 2024**

The companion enhancement entitles the disabled pass holder to have one companion with them who can travel for free. A pass is of the same design as a standard concessionary bus pass but also has an identifying symbol '+1' in the top right-hand corner if the passholder has this enhancement.

Companions can travel with the pass holder at any time that the passholder is entitled to travel. A companion CANNOT use the pass without the pass holder.

A companion is a carer who is with you because you cannot manage on your own. This can be any of the following, and it does not need to be the same person every time;

- family member, or
- friend, or
- someone who is employed e.g. staff from a care home, or directly employed carer

It doesn't have to be the same person for each journey.

Although the concessionary bus pass allows free travel for the pass holder throughout England, the companion can only travel free when the journey starts in Warwickshire, and the companion and the pass holder must get on and off the bus at the same point.

The pass holder does not have to have a carer travelling on the pass with them e.g. the carer may have their own pass, or someone who is registered blind may be travelling alone.

It is possible for someone to meet the companion enhancement criteria but not qualify for an ENCTS pass. This is due to the ENCTS eligibility criteria which are set down in legislation, and which are outside the control of the Council.

### **Eligibility**

An applicant will be eligible for the companion enhancement if they are over the age of 11, qualify for an ENCTS bus pass under the current scheme AND one of the following applies:

1. They are registered blind (severely sight impaired) or entitled to be registered as such.
  2. They need to be accompanied or supervised 24 hours a day due to their disability e.g. challenging behaviours, an unstable or unpredictable medical condition, or severe cognitive or mental impairment
  3. They are physically unable to get on or off the bus without the assistance of another person.
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The following is a draft list of documents which we may be able to accept to demonstrate eligibility for the proposed companion enhancement. The list will be kept under review by officers throughout, as there may be additional documents which demonstrate eligibility.

Documents which we can accept as evidence you meet the criteria for the Companion enhancement

1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CVI, BD8, or registration with Warwickshire Vision Support</li> </ul>
2*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Higher rate Care Component of DLA</li> <li>• Higher rate Attendance Allowance</li> <li>• ** PIP mobility – 12 points on the ‘Planning and following a journey’ activity together with PIP Enhanced rate for care</li> <li>• PIP care – Enhanced rate provided it includes one of the following;               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ 8+ points for Communicating (or Communicating verbally), or</li> <li>→ 8 points for Reading and understanding signs, symbols and words</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Evidence form completed by a specialist medical professional.</li> </ul>
3*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence form completed by a specialist medical professional.</li> </ul>

*\* Documents need to be dated within the last 12 months to be used as evidence*

*\*\* NB. During the first 12 months of the scheme PIP documentation would be accepted if the applicant had 12 points for planning and following a journey without receiving either the standard or enhanced daily living rate. This has been reviewed and updated to make it compatible with someone needing 24 hour care.*