

# Concessionary Travel

## Companion (+1) add-on



## Guidance Notes for applicants

### IMPORTANT

**If you do not qualify for a concessionary bus pass, you cannot have a companion pass.**

You may have evidence that one of the 'reasons' applies to you, but this will not entitle you to a pass if you do not have a qualifying disability and do not qualify because of your age.

If you are applying for a Warwickshire concessionary bus pass, or if you already have one, then you may qualify for a companion (+1) pass which would allow a carer to travel with you by bus on journeys within Warwickshire. Your carer will not be able to travel free outside Warwickshire.

A carer is someone 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. member of staff from a care home, or directly employed carer

A carer will not receive a pass of their own, but you will be issued with a pass which allows someone to travel with you. This pass will have a '+1' symbol on it.

Not everyone with a bus pass will qualify for a companion (+1) pass. Warwickshire County Council can issue companion (+1) passes to disabled person's pass holders over the age of 11, and older person's pass holders, who can show that one of the three reasons below applies to them.

<b>1</b>	<b>Registered, or able to register, as blind (severely sight impaired)</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Needs to be accompanied or supervised by a carer at all times due to a disability</b> This may be because of challenging behaviours, an unstable or unpredictable medical condition, or severe cognitive or mental impairment but will require 24/7 care.
<b>3</b>	<b>Physically unable to get on or off the bus without the assistance of another person</b>

### Evidence

The applicant must provide evidence to show that they qualify for the +1 add-on. If the concessionary travel team already holds suitable evidence e.g. an applicant is registered severely sight impaired and we already have details, then this can be considered

We will not issue a pass with the +1 add-on unless we receive a request to do so, even if we already hold the information.

The CT-COMP2 and CT-COMP3 evidence forms have been provided to assist in getting the correct information to allow an application to be considered. These need to be completed by someone who is in a position of authority and who is involved with the care of the applicant. e.g. medical professional, social worker, care home manager.

Evidence provided by family members or directly employed carers will not be accepted.

Any fees associated with completing the forms will need to be paid by the applicant.

Provision of a completed form does not guarantee that a pass with the +1 add-on will be issued. This will depend on the information which has been provided by the person completing the form.

## Background

Companion passes are not part of the nationally funded scheme, and so money to pay for them must be found locally. Eligibility for this type of pass is also determined locally, which means that someone might qualify for a companion pass elsewhere but would not qualify in Warwickshire.

As this is a locally funded scheme, and eligibility elsewhere will vary, only those companion (+1) passes issued by Warwickshire County Council will be accepted on Warwickshire buses.

The companion (+1) pass was agreed by councillors in July 2023 and it was agreed that companion (+1) passes will be made available from January 2024 until 31 March 2025.

After this time there is no guarantee of ongoing funding beyond that date.

The reasons people may qualify for a companion (+1) pass were also agreed by councillors. Due to limited money available, companion (+1) passes are aimed at people who are most severely affected by their disabilities.