

# Information

Sheet Number:  
2013-17/239

## For County Councillors

From:	Melinda Dunseith
Date:	26/08/2016
To:	All County Councillors / or specific local councillors

## County Ticket - SMARTER Public Transport "Love the Bus Scheme"

### Members Briefing

#### *Introduction*

Where possible, we want to make it easier for residents to order and buy our services and we are offering a growing number of them online. The latest addition is the Student County Ticket which can now be applied for entirely online. We are encouraging people to use this online option, so please share this information with constituents as you feel is appropriate. There's no longer a need to fill out paperwork or provide a photograph, students can simply complete and submit the form found here [www.somerset.gov.uk/countyticket](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/countyticket)

#### *What is the Student County Ticket?*

The ticket covers travel to and from any 16+ education school or college, on any of the county's buses, including school bus routes where available. It costs £675.00 for the 2016/17 academic year, and we are expecting approximately 2,500 to 3,000 online applications this academic year. So far we have received 1800 online applications.

#### *What is the "Love the Bus Scheme"?*

The Love the Bus card is a *multiuse* or *multi-purpose* SMART card, where ultimately any appropriate transport product will be able to be added to the customer's SMART card. This will be followed by the Park and Ride tickets and any transport operator who wishes to add their commercial products to the scheme.

In time a "sQuid" online purse function will be added to the active Love the Bus cards, allowing passengers to pay for individual fares with a cashless transaction.

The first product that has moved to the Love the Bus Scheme is the multi-operator, County Ticket bus pass for 16+students.

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