

Essex Saver Scheme Conditions

1. Scheme definitions

1.1. These definitions outline any abbreviations, common terms or time periods outlined in this document.

1.2. Unless added exceptionally, the following time periods apply:

1.2.1. Validity – the ticket will be valid from 00:00 until 23:59 on the day of issue.

1.2.2. Issue – the ticket will be available from Monday to Saturday inclusive, except where the Monday or Friday is a Public Holiday (as defined in England) and the Essex Sunday Saver is available.

1.2.3. Notice – any notice to request exemption from the scheme is set at 2 (two) calendar months.

1.3. Abbreviations and common terms:

“Administrative boundary” means the boundaries of the County of Essex as laid out in the Local Government Act 1972 or as later amended.

“Authority” means Essex County Council.

“CMA” means the Competition and Markets Authority

“Competition and Markets Authority” means the government body that oversees multi-operator ticketing and block exemption rules.

“ECC” means Essex County Council.

“Essex Saver” means the all Essex scheme laid out in this document.

“Essex Sunday Saver” means the voluntary Sunday-only variant of the Essex Saver, which is addressed in this scheme.

“Exemption” means an exclusion from this scheme.

“Passenger” means a person who has paid for and been issued an Essex Saver Ticket.

“Price” means the cost of one ticket to the fare-paying passenger.

“Operator” means a bus operating company that is participating or has received permission to be excluded from the scheme.

“Scheme” means the Essex Saver scheme.

“Scheme Administrator” means the Authority overseeing the scheme, in this instance Essex County Council.

“Ticket” means a document issued by a bus operator as a permit to travel.

1.4. The scheme is operated as specified within the document CMA53, owned by the Competition and Markets Authority. It can be found online at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-transport-ticketing-schemes-block-exemption-guidance-cma53>

2. Operational Area

- 2.1. Essex Saver tickets allow users unlimited same day travel on registered local bus services within the administrative boundary of Essex County Council, and also into neighbouring counties, providing the journey starts or finishes in Essex and no change of bus is made outside of Essex.
- 2.2. All operators of registered local bus services in Essex are required to be members of the scheme and Essex Savers are valid on all non-exempt services. No existing or new operator will be excluded from joining the scheme.

3. Exemptions

- 3.1. The Scheme Administrator will consider applications for exemptions from the scheme made by operators. Those services currently exempt from the scheme are listed in Appendix 1: Service Exemption Requests and Decisions. The default position is that a service is participating in the scheme. To be exempted the service will need to meet one or more of the criteria set out in 3.2 below.
- 3.2. The exemption criteria are defined as follows:
 - 3.2.1. Limited Stop or Coach (express) services
 - 3.2.2. The service has a premium element, such as reserved seats or toilet facilities
 - 3.2.3. That the service is a cross boundary service that operates in service for less than 5 travelled miles on a single trip within Essex
 - 3.2.4. The service is a heritage service that utilises vehicles that do not meet the requirements of PSVAR regulations.
 - 3.2.5. It is a service that runs for tourist purposes only, such as open top bus tours
 - 3.2.6. It is a service that will be short term registration for a service provided for six weeks or less.
- 3.3. Any service registered is automatically included within the scheme unless exemption is issued by the Scheme Administrator at time of registration, as laid out in 3.5.
- 3.4. Any applications for route exemption from the scheme received by the Scheme Administrators after 1st May 2008 will be required to give the notice as set out in paragraph [1.2.34.2.2](#) before exemption can be implemented.
- 3.5. Where a local bus service is being registered by an operator for the first time and that registration is not replacing an identical route by an alternative

operator, the registration may be submitted with an exemption request to the Scheme Administrators prior to service commencement. The service registration and exemption request must be sent to the address set out in [3.93.8](#)

- 3.6. Where an operator is acquiring routes or the business of another operator, the incumbent routes scheme inclusion or exemptions continue to apply.
- 3.7. Any request to be exempt from the scheme will be recorded, along with its decision, within Appendix 1: Service Exemption Requests and Decisions.
- 3.8. If a request is submitted retrospectively to the service commencement, the operator is required to continue ticket issue and acceptance whilst exemption is considered.
- 3.9. Operators may send their request for exemption or registration with exemption request to:

The Local Bus Team
Integrated Passenger Transport Unit
Essex County Council
County Hall
Chelmsford
Essex
CM1 1LX

4. Availability

- 4.1. Essex Saver Tickets will be issued on days stipulated within 1.2.2, on all non-exempt registered local bus services.
- 4.2. Tickets will be valid for travel but not issued on, community transport or demand responsive based services that are being used to replace or supplement registered local bus services.

5. Ticket Sales

- 5.1. Given the suggested Essex Saver ticket issue mechanism and the maintenance of single, return and network fares, the scheme will disburse revenue on a 'lies where it falls' basis in line with Block exemption guidance, issued by the CMA, The latest version noted at paragraph 1.4.

6. Acceptance

- 6.1. Essex Saver tickets will be accepted according to the validity set out within paragraph 1.2.1 on the following basis:
 - All registered local bus services provided by operators or on behalf of operators acting in their capacity or contractors to Essex County Council with the exception of those listed as exempt from the scheme within Appendix 1: Service Exemption Requests and Decisions, and

- Operating and stopping to pick up and/or set down passengers within the boundaries of the administrative County of Essex, unless exempt as above.
- 6.2. Any service that crosses the administrative boundary is required to issue and accept Essex Saver Passes unless exempt as defined within 3.2 and listed within Appendix 1: Service Exemption Requests and Decisions.

7. Price

- 7.1. Tickets will be offered to all individuals at £10.00 per person.
- 7.2. Rates shall be determined from time to time by the Scheme Administrators in consultation with the Bus Operators, represented by the Essex Branch of the Confederation of Passenger Transport at Liaison Meetings.
- 7.3. The scheme is required to give at least 2 (two) calendar months notice given to operators of any changes to rates.
- 7.4. There will be an annual review of the Essex Saver ticket and its price. The price may be increased in line with RPI.
- 7.5. Any price change that exceeds RPI is required to consult with the public, with the consultation period for at least 2 (two) calendar months.
- 7.6. The scheme is required to give 1 (one) month notice to the public of any price increase. Operators participating are required to make reasonable efforts to display notice of the price increase.
- 7.7. The scheme does not impose any restriction on the ability of operators to set their own, single, return or network rover fares or seek in any way to regulate the timing or operation of services.

8. Implementation

- 8.1. The form of the ticket will be such as to minimise the implementation costs to operators. It is intended that it should be issued on bus. There is no 'off bus' purchasing facility at this time.

9. Format

- 9.1. All Essex Saver tickets will clearly show as a minimum:
- Designation as 'Essex Saver'
 - Price
 - Date of Issue

10. Information

- 10.1. Operators will be requested to advise the Scheme Administrator of ticket sales on an as needed basis. The time frames and purposes of any requests will be made clear when being made. No other information exchange will be involved.
- 10.2. The Scheme may issue aggregate figures as part of its LTP or other official reporting including Freedom of Information requests.

11. Staff Training

11.1. Operators will undertake to ensure that all appropriate members of staff are familiar with the appearance of the ticket and with the provisions of the scheme.

12. Marketing

12.1. The County Council will undertake general, non-operator specific publicity & marketing for the ticket. This will be made available for use by all operators.

12.2. Marketing can include (but is not limited to) printed and digital media.

Appendix 1: Service Exemption Requests and Decisions

Service	Operator	Operation type	Date applied	Decision	Reason
ALL	TfL	Local Bus Service	01/04/2008	Partially Approved	Tickets will be valid for but not issued on TfL bus services starting or finishing in Essex
X30	First	Limited Stop Express	Pre-2017	Approved	Limited stop service with premium element
133	Arriva	Limited Stop Express	Pre-2017	Approved	Limited stop service with premium element
X81	Ensign	Limited Stop Express	Pre-2017	Approved	Limited stop service
724	Arriva	Limited Stop Express	Pre-2017	Approved	Limited stop service
Dengie Dart 99	Arrow Taxis	Limited Stop Express	Pre-2017	Approved	Limited stop service
X10	First	Limited Stop Express	31/07/2016	Approved	Limited stop service with premium element
DaRt 1, 2, 3	Arrow Taxis	DRT	07/02/2017	Partially Approved	Limited service; must be accepted for travel but not sold

Appendix 2: Update log

Version Number	Date	Amends
1	01/04/2008	Scheme establishment
2	31/07/2016	Exemption to scheme applications
3	07/02/2017	Exemption to scheme applications
4	01/04/2018	Price amendment
5	06/08/2018	Each paragraph is numbered, additional paragraph with scheme definitions added, exemption criterion. References to OFT changed to CMA. Additional requirement for operators participating to make reasonable efforts to inform customers.