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TfL's nominee passes 'scandal' continues at cost of £32million a year, despite growing deficit

- Free travel perk for friends of TfL staff continues despite dire financial situation
- Cash would cover Mayor's cuts to local transport funding across London
- Calls to finally scrap 'unnecessary' cost as TfL's deficit continues to rise

Transport for London is still offering free travelcards to friends of its employees at a cost of almost £32million a year, despite its dire financial situation, new data shows.

The operator handed out almost 40,000 all-zones travelcards free of charge last year, despite heading for a £1billion financial deficit in 2019.

Even by conservative estimates, which assume that only half of recipients would otherwise pay for one of the cheapest travelcards, the cost to TfL through loss of fare income is at least £31.9million.

The figures come as Sadiq Khan prepares to confirm a £37.4million cut to transport infrastructure (LIP) funding for local councils on Thursday*.

London Assembly member Gareth Bacon, who obtained the data, said: "Nominee passes have been an unnecessary and expensive cost to TfL for several years, but in the context of significant cuts to local transport investment across the capital, this perk is becoming a scandal.

"Sadiq Khan's financial mismanagement has already led to the scrapping of upgrade work on the Northern and Jubilee lines and, earlier this week, TfL admitted it was abandoning all proactive road maintenance.

"In this financial climate it cannot be appropriate for this costly employee perk to continue. Londoners need the Mayor to stand up to his union friends and scrap nominee passes in favour of greater local transport investment."

ENDS.

Notes

- Gareth Bacon is the GLA Conservatives' group leader and budget spokesman
- *In the December 2017 TfL Business Plan, the Mayor proposed a £49m cut to LIP (Local Implementation Plan) funding compared to the 2016 TfL Business Plan.

Following pressure from the GLA Conservatives and other campaign groups, the Mayor has since reinstated £11.6m in his 2018/19 budget. However, the total loss to local council LIP funding remains at £37.4m - a cut of 16.8 per cent.

Nominee passes data

Number of Bus Operator Nominee Passes	20,543
Cost of Zone 1-3 Travelcard	1,600
Total Cost	32,868,800
50% of Cost	16,434,400
Number of TfL Nominee Passes	19,341
Cost of Zone 1-3 Travelcard	1,600
Total Cost	30,945,600
50% of Cost	15,472,800
Total combined cost	31,907,200

For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact the press office below.

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