

# 108 Fares Revision

From **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April** we are revising our fares from Haddington to Musselburgh and Fort Kinnaird.

**Haddington – Musselburgh** Adult fare reduced from £3.00 to **£2.60**

**Haddington – Fort Kinnaird** Adult Fare reduced from £3.50 to **£3.20**

All other fares will remain the same as they already offer the best value travel within East Lothian.

We also must make it clear that, despite recent speculation, we have absolutely no plans to stop running the 108 Haddington to Fort Kinnaird service. We have already invested well over £250,000 in new vehicles and equipment for the route and as a result passenger numbers are increasing every week.

The travelling public in East Lothian have shown us amazing support over the last few years, and in particular with the 108 since August last year and as long as passengers continue to support the 108 then it will continue and hopefully we will be able to implement our plans to expand the route and increase the number of daily journeys.

Through our state of the art ticketing system we know where every one of our passengers boards and alights our buses and know that the vast majority of our passengers travel with us through choice and not necessity, however we are aware that our customers will not pay more to travel with us than another operator which is why we have reduced the fares above.

We are however deeply disappointed by the actions of East Coast Buses, a wholly owned subsidiary of Lothian Buses, who are planning to operate a 106 service to compete with the 108. They claim to be a 'Socially Responsible Operator' yet did not think a direct service between Haddington and Musselburgh was viable when First Group announced they were closing their East Lothian operations a year ago. It should be remembered that First Group could not make any of the services they operated in East Lothian pay for many years

We were asked originally to look at altering the 111 – 122 routes we operate under a subsidy for East Lothian Council to provide this link. This proved impossible without destroying what we had achieved with the 111 and as there was no money to subsidise another route we took the decision to try the 108 without any support from East Lothian Council as we felt it was an important link for our county.