

7. SINGLE COIN FARES

Ian McChesney spoke to the report noting that the proposal was one factor being addressed to speed up bus services. There was a need to reduce passenger loading time from seven to four seconds to fit in with the operating needs of the new interchange. Some 850 submissions had been received from the public on the proposal and those in support exceeded those not by a ratio of 4:1. The 20% opposed were primarily on the grounds of cost increase. The increases proposed (the first since 1991) would increase cash fares for 1 and 2 section and Zone 1 fares by 5-7%. This is well below inflation movement for the period. It was hoped that increases in cash fares might encourage greater use of multi-trip tickets.

Cr Wells submitted that children's fares should drop from the \$1 proposed to 50 cents on the basis of affordability and not discouraging future adult patrons.

In answer to a question about electronic ticketing, this was currently being looked at with either smart cards or magnetic strip tickets. It was revealed that current monthly passes were not dissimilar to overseas concession cards.

Resolved

That the Joint Committee receive the report and forward its comments on the proposed single coin fare to the Regional Council.

Hay/Close