

## 1. PRESENTATION BY ENVIRONMENT CANTERBURY – PROPOSED NEW BUS FARES AND TICKETING

The Committee received a presentation from Ms Jill Atkinson, Environment Canterbury, on the proposed new ticketing system for Christchurch bus services. The presentation outlined a revised changed fare structure which had been formulated following consultation with bus users and was designed to provide:

- An easier, less confusing fare structure
- A flexible transfer system and tickets that are valid on all buses
- Discounts based on usage which are available without having to pay large sums in advance
- Convenience, taking advantage of modern technology

The proposed new system would utilise an electronic swipe card for all day unlimited travel together with the option of \$2 cash payment for unlimited travel within one hour.

The opportunity was then taken to allow members of the Committee to ask questions which related to:

- The increase in pensioner fares from \$1 to \$3 was noted as an item of concern and Environment Canterbury confirmed that bus users within this category came within the group of 16% of users identified within their survey of people who considered they would be worse off with the new ticketing system.
- Concern was expressed at the possible loss in patronage that might result from the changed system and Environment Canterbury advised that their research had indicated a possible 8% increase in bus patronage as a result of the new system with a neutral effect on revenue overall.

At the conclusion of the presentation members indicated their general support for the proposed system but expressed concern in regard to two aspects ie:

- The additional cost for visitors to the city.
- The increase for pensioners from \$1 to \$3 for short duration trips.

The Committee **decided**:

1. That the Council encourage Environment Canterbury to allocate more funding to marketing on an ongoing permanent basis to encourage the peak time transferral of commuters from private cars to public transport.
2. That a draft submission on the ticketing fare review be brought to the April meeting of the Committee for consideration.