

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

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The purpose of this report is to provide for a presentation by Environment Canterbury staff on a proposed new bus ticketing system and to allow for input from the Committee.

BACKGROUND – PROPOSED BUS FARES AND TICKETING

The following background information has been received from Environment Canterbury prior to the meeting:

“In 1998 Environment Canterbury and the Christchurch City Council, after listening to extensive community feedback, adopted a joint strategy for an improved public transport system.

The message was clear. Residents sought a new direction for public transport, Specifically, an attractive, integrated system which contributes to the health and well-being of Christchurch residents.

Improvements made to date include the introduction of the Orbiter, express routes, frequency increases, newer easy access buses and new shelters.

Environment Canterbury is now looking at bus fares and ticketing. Research has been carried out with workers, students, retirees, parents, school children and bus drivers and operators. Over 600 bus users were also interviewed for their feedback.

The following improvements were suggested:

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

Based on this feedback and research, a proposal for a new ticketing system has been designed. Over the next few weeks consultation will be undertaken throughout the city. This will include an extensive distribution of consultation brochures on buses, in the Bus Exchange, malls and other locations. Presentations to stakeholder groups have also been arranged.

Environment Canterbury is seeking feedback on the proposal and welcomes the opportunity to give a presentation to the Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee.”

A copy of the relevant brochures and FAQ list prepared by Environment Canterbury has also been separately circulated to members.

Chairman’s

Recommendation: That the information be received.