

Confirmed Public minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting on Thursday 22 June 2023

Taumata Kōrero – Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council
100 Cuba Street, Te Aro, Wellington at 1.01pm

Members Present

Councillor Ponter (Chair)
Councillor Staples (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Bassett
Councillor Connelly
Councillor Duthie
Councillor Gaylor
Councillor Kirk-Burnnand
Councillor Laban
Councillor Lee
Councillor Nash
Councillor Ropata
Councillor Saw
Councillor Woolf

Karakia timatanga

The Council Chair opened the meeting with a karakia timatanga.

Public Business

1 Apologies

There were no apologies.

2 Declarations of conflicts of interest

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

3 Public participation

There was no public participation.

4 Implementation of Government's public transport fare initiatives June 2023 – Report 23.280

Tim Shackleton, Senior Manager, Commercial, Strategy, and Investments, and Nikki Lau Young, Programme Director, Metlink Operating Model, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Nash / Cr Connelly

That the Council:

- 1 Notes that on 14 March 2022, the Government announced an initiative to provide funding to allow for all public transport fares to be halved for three months commencing on 1 April 2022 (Half Price Fares Initiative), followed by a number of time extensions to 30 June 2023.
- 2 Notes that on 19 May 2022, the Government announced funding for a Community Connect initiative to provide for half price public transport fares for Community Services Cardholders, now commencing on 1 July 2023 (Community Connect Initiative – CSC).
- 3 Notes that on 18 May 2023, the Government announced funding for an initiative to extend the Community Connect Initiative (Community Connect Initiative - Extended) from 1 July 2023 for public transport fares to be:
 - a. Free for under 13 year olds
 - b. Half price for under 25 year olds.
- 4 Notes that amending public transport fares is a decision that rests with public transport authorities (PTAS), in this case the Council.
- 5 Notes that Greater Wellington estimates that it will be in a position to implement the Community Connect Initiative in August 2023 (as opposed to 1 July 2023).
- 6 Notes that to mitigate the impacts on some communities of not being able to implement extended Community Connect initiatives by 1 July 2023, officers have considered several interim measures, which could be implemented from 1 July 2023 to bridge the gap until Greater Wellington's service provider Snapper is able to provide age-based concessions.
- 7 Notes that, to date, Greater Wellington has not undertaken age-based registration but believes this can be built into the backend concession system in just over a month.
- 8 Notes that, due to the short timeframe between the Council decision and 1 July 2023, Greater Wellington is only able to implement two options:
 - a. Continuation of universal half prices fares for all
 - b. Return all current half price adult fares to full price, while all other concessions groups remain half price (including children).

- 9 Notes that under both options, free fares to under 13s is unavailable; however, option a) would allow the absence of free child travel for families to be offset through cheaper adult fares during this one month period.
- 10 Notes that public transport operators have provided strong preferences to option a) which minimises the number of fare changes. If option b) is applied with limited time to communicate and update systems, a degree of customer and front line staff confusion is envisaged.
- 11 Notes that Greater Wellington has requested support from Central Government to allow Council to apply funding for implementation costs to fund the one-month extension of half price fares (interim measure option a).
- 12 Notes that it is estimated that extending universal half price public transport would cost Greater Wellington approximately \$2.0 million per month in lost revenue.
- 13 Notes that the Acting Minister of Transport has been asked to fund the interim measure to continue half priced fares.
- 14 Agrees as an interim measure, commencing 1 July 2023, to extend universal half price fares on Metlink Public Transport for all.
- 15 Agrees to implement in August 2023 for **bus and rail**:
 - a. Free fares for under 13-year-olds using Snapper cards
 - b. Half price for under 25-year-olds using Snapper cards.
- 16 Agrees to implement in August 2023 for **harbour ferry**:
 - a. Free fares for under 13-year-olds using a free ferry ticket
 - b. Half price for under 25-year-olds using a concession ticket.
- 17 Authorises officers to undertake actions to implement Council's decision.

The motion was **carried**.

Karakia whakamutunga

The Council Chair closed the meeting with a karakia whakamutunga.

The meeting closed at 1.17pm.



Councillor D Ponter

Chair

Date: 29/6/23