

Resolution on the Installation of free Wifi at major bus interchanges and railway stations

Purpose

This resolution proposes that free Wifi is installed at major train stations and bus interchanges in the Wellington region.

Background

Free Wifi at train stations and major bus interchanges, such as at Kilbirnie, Johnsonville, the railway station, Petone and Courtenay Place, would improve the customer experience of public transport; enable public transport users to be more productive, and reduce the inconvenience of having to wait for buses and trains, especially when they are late in arriving.

Free Wifi would make the experience of having to transfer between buses and trains more palatable and convenient. Making bus transfers more palatable will be important when the new bus routes come into effect in Wellington in 2018, and a significant number of bus passengers will be required to transfer between buses on a routine basis.

It fits with Wellington's strategy of positioning itself as a smart, innovative, high tech and creative hub.

Ideally there would free Wifi at all bus and train stations in the region, and on buses and trains as well. But there will be a financial cost to this, so it makes sense to begin the process with a staged roll-out of free Wifi at

major bus and train interchanges in the region.

The Council may also be able to forge commercial partnerships to help defray the costs of installing free Wifi. Once Council has agreed that we want to install free Wifi, Council could approach the market for commercial partnerships/sponsorships opportunities.

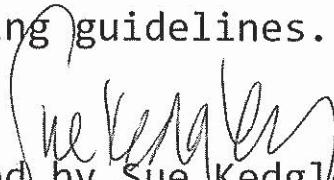
Motion

1. That officers report back to Council in November 2016 on the logistics and cost of installing free Wifi in all major train stations and bus interchanges in the Wellington region and a timetable for implementing this, with a view to including this in the 2017/18 Annual Plan and rolling it out thereafter.

2. That as part of this process, officers explore whether there are opportunities for commercial partnerships that could assist in the roll out of free Wifi in all major train stations and bus interchanges in the Wellington region.

Communication

This motion is considered to be a matter of low significance in terms of the Council's decision making guidelines.



Moved by Sue Kedgley
Seconded by Paul Bruce