

Original Notice of Motion

Fares on buses in Portsmouth

Proposed by Councillor Michael Andrewes
Seconded by Councillor Matthew Winnington

Council welcomes:

The money obtained from national government by the previous council administration to improve public transport infrastructure in Portsmouth and the My Travel Portsmouth project

Council notes:

The current annual rate of inflation is 0.3% and that the cost of diesel has fallen by over 10% since January 2014 and that as a result the Chief Secretary to the Treasury has written to the five major bus companies saying that they should reduce their fares.

That bus companies are reporting large profits.

However despite this First Bus have increased their individual fares, increasing some by approximately 6%, more than 20 times the rate of inflation and some season ticket prices including the three month season ticket by over 3%, more than 10 times the rate of inflation.

Council resolves:

To request that the Chief Executive writes to First Bus expressing the council's disappointment over the increase in its fares and that he also writes to both First Bus and Stagecoach urging them to reduce fares.

To ask that Scrutiny Management Panel holds a meeting on bus fares as soon as possible and ideally in March and invites representatives of First Bus, Stagecoach and bus passengers to that meeting.

To ask the Cabinet to work with the bus companies towards promoting and extending innovative ticketing solutions such as Solent Go card, mobile phone ticketing and improving and promoting bus travel generally