

## Cabinet

<b>Report Title:</b>	Ipswich Park and Ride
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	12 July 2016
<b>Lead Councillor(s):</b>	Councillor James Finch, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport
<b>Local Councillor(s):</b>	Councillors David Busby and Patricia O'Brien
<b>Director:</b>	Geoff Dobson, Director of Resource Management
<b>Assistant Director or Head of Service:</b>	Aidan Dunn, Assistant Director Procurement and Passenger Transport
<b>Author:</b>	Belinda Godbold, Travel Transformation Programme Manager Tel: 01473 264303 Email: <a href="mailto:Belinda.godbold@suffolk.gov.uk">Belinda.godbold@suffolk.gov.uk</a>

### Brief summary of report

1. The Ipswich Park and Ride service is an important part of the town's transport infrastructure, providing a valuable service to commuters, visitors, shoppers and those accessing the hospital and railway station and helps reduce traffic congestion and the associated environmental impact of cars. It adds to the credibility of Ipswich as a vibrant town.
2. The current service is subsidised by the tax payer with the County Council historically paying over £700,000 per year for the service. Over recent months the County Council has led a working group to review the service and has developed a proposed new operating model which has the potential for the Park and Ride service to continue operating without reliance on tax payer funding.
3. This proposal was agreed by Cabinet on 14 June 2016, but was referred back to Cabinet for further consideration following the Scrutiny meeting on 29 June 2016.
4. Scrutiny Committee referred the paper back to Cabinet on grounds of clarity of aims and desired outcomes. Whilst generally supportive of the approach proposed the Committee recommended that Cabinet should consider two further recommendations to clarify the power being delegated to officers and cabinet members.

## What is Cabinet being asked to decide?

5. The Cabinet is asked to reconsider its decision of 14 June 2016 in the light of the Scrutiny Committee's concerns as detailed in Appendix A (the minute of the Scrutiny Committee on 29 June 2016).
6. The Cabinet is asked to approve the revised recommendations from the original paper. (The revisions are underlined):
  - a) Approve the principles of the new operating model for the Ipswich Park and Ride bus service as set out in paragraph 25 (of Cabinet paper Item 7 14 June 2016).
  - b) Delegate authority to the Director of Resource Management, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport to finalise the arrangements for the new bus service, and organise the smooth transition from the existing arrangements to the new model, following the steps as set out in paragraph 39 (of Cabinet paper Item 7 14 June 2016) with the condition that notice shall not be served on the existing contract until after a Memorandum Of Understanding has been agreed with the bus operators, setting out a clear timetable for achieving agreed infrastructure improvements.
  - c) Delegate authority to the Director of Resource Management, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport to undertake an options appraisal to determine the best use of the sites to minimise their net running costs, and implement that option.
  - d) If it becomes clear that no viable alternative provision for Park & Ride services from Copdock and from Martlesham can be provided, agree to a consultation and a further report to Cabinet prior to the cessation of the current service.

## Reason for recommendation

7. At its meeting on 14 June 2016, the Cabinet agreed recommendations regarding proposals for a new operating model for Ipswich Park and Ride bus services and sites.
8. The decision was subsequently called in to Scrutiny Committee.
9. Following a call-in of this decision, Scrutiny Committee referred the decision back to the Cabinet (see extract from unconfirmed minutes of the meeting in Appendix A) requesting that the recommendations be made tighter and clearer with regards to the authority being delegated to the Director of Resource Management and Cabinet member for Highways and Transport.

## What are the key issues to consider?

10. The key issues to consider are as set out in the original report, plus the following additional considerations:
  - a) That notice on the existing service is not served until it is clear that a viable alternative will be provided.
  - b) Whether the delegations requested are now sufficiently clear to convey what would happen if circumstances changed.

## **What are the resource and risk implications?**

11. The resource and risk issues remain as those set out in the Cabinet paper of 14 June 2016. The paper described how the proposed new approach is to change from a contract for services, to the operation of commercial routes. This transfers the financial and commercial risk of running of the service from the County Council to local bus operators. The revised recommendations provide further clarity but do not alter the resource and risk profile.

## **What are the timescales associated with this decision?**

12. The enhanced recommendations do not alter the timescales associated with this project. The original Cabinet paper stated that the target date for the new service would be January 2017 although this would be kept under review. This remains the ambition but the project team continue to recognise that this is a complicated commercial arrangement that will take time to negotiate. The new arrangements will not be put in place until the Cabinet member, Director of Resource Management and the new service operators are satisfied that the new service will be a success.

## **Alternative options**

13. The Cabinet could either:
  - a) amend the decision taken on 14 June 2016, taking into account the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee as set out above, or
  - b) endorse its original decision.

## **Who will be affected by this decision?**

14. Those affected by this decision remain as those set out in the Cabinet paper of 14 June.

## **Main body of report**

15. The report considered by Cabinet on 14 June is unchanged other than greater clarity to the recommendations as requested by the Scrutiny Committee.
16. Additional background information was provided in the report to the Scrutiny Committee regarding the views of stakeholders towards the proposals for the Park and Ride service. This information is contained within the Scrutiny papers here: [scrutiny papers](#)
17. The Cabinet is asked to approve the revised recommendations from the original paper. (The revisions are underlined) :
  - a) Approve the principles of the new operating model for the Ipswich Park and Ride bus service as set out in paragraph 25 (of Cabinet paper Item 7 14 June 2016).
  - b) Delegate authority to the Director of Resource Management, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport to finalise the arrangements for the new bus service, and organise the smooth transition from the existing arrangements to the new model, following the steps as set out in paragraph 39 (of Cabinet paper Item 7 14 June 2016) with the condition that notice shall not be served on the existing contract until after a Memorandum Of Understanding has been

agreed with the bus operators, setting out a clear timetable for achieving agreed infrastructure improvements.

- c) Delegate authority to the Director of Resource Management, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport to undertake an options appraisal to determine the best use of the sites to minimise their net running costs, and implement that option.
- d) If it becomes clear that no viable alternative provision for Park & Ride services from Copdock and from Martlesham can be provided, agree to a consultation and a further report to Cabinet prior to the cessation of the current service.

#### **Sources of further information**

- a) Appendix A: Scrutiny Committee extract from unconfirmed minutes (29 June 2016)
- b) Appendix B: Cabinet (14 June 2016); Item 7: Ipswich Park and Ride; Available at:  
<http://committeeminutes.suffolkcc.gov.uk/LoadDocument.aspx?rID=0900271181c6b672>
- c) Appendix C: Scrutiny Committee paper (29 June 2016); Available at:  
<http://committeeminutes.suffolkcc.gov.uk/LoadDocument.aspx?rID=0900271181c97172>
- d) Cabinet Budget paper 11 February 2016 [Appendix C Annex D](#)