

ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No.
15 FEBRUARY 2010	Public Report

Report of the Executive Director of Operations

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PETERBOROUGH'S CHRISTMAS PARK AND RIDE SERVICE

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report is being presented at the request of the Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Committee are asked to scrutinise the provision of the Christmas park and ride service and make any appropriate recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, Housing and Community Development for consideration.

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

- 3.1 This area of work relates directly to the Sustainable Communities Strategy, specifically the priority to create the country's environment capital and deliver substantial and truly sustainable growth. A Christmas park and ride service helps to achieve the following national indicators:

NI175 Access to services by public transport, walking and cycling
NI177 Local bus passenger journeys
NI185 CO2 reduction from local authority operations
NI186 Per capita CO2 emissions

4. BACKGROUND

Background

- 4.1 Peterborough has operated a Christmas park and ride service since 1999. Whilst relatively successful, the Christmas park and ride service has always operated at a cost to the Council. Over recent years additional funding has been provided to either offer an enhanced park and ride service (increased number of days, a third site) or to support the £20,000 budget held in Transport and Sustainable Environment. It should be noted that the Christmas park and ride service has operated free of charge since 2004.

- 4.2 The table below gives a comparison of usage for the Christmas park and ride service from its commencement in 1999.

Table 1: Comparison of Usage

Year	Number of operating days	Number of cars	Number of passengers	Charge
1999	11	3,203	6,843	£1 per car
2000	11	3,249	7,836	£1 per car
2001	9	2,570	5,435	£1 per adult
2002	10	2,392	4,746	£1 per adult

2003	10	2,452	4,954	£1 per adult
2004	9	3,479	8,598	Free
2005	20	5,095	13,960	Free
2006	19	6,560	16,152	Free
2007	19	6,057	17,321	Free
2008	13	3,780	7,149	Free
2009	12	3,361	6,914	Free

4.3 The average number of passengers using the service per day each year fluctuates. This is due to a number of reasons:

- The number of passengers using the service on Sundays is less than Saturdays. The split of operational days has varied year on year.
- In the first 5 years there was a charge to use the service, but the service has been free since that time.
- The Town Bridge repair work impacted on easy of access for car users into the city.

4.4 Table 2: Operational Days and Costs

Year	Operational Days		Cost of Bus Service Provision	Security and Signage
	Saturdays	Sundays		
2007	14	5	£32,325	£4,859
2008	9	4	£20,660	£2,754
2009	6	6	£18,990	£5,338

4.5 The Christmas park and ride service was retendered in April 2008 and a reduction in the cost per day was achieved.

4.6 The cost of security increased in 2009 as procurement of the service was provided at short notice with an interim provider. Corporately, security service provision is under review.

The future of the Christmas park and ride service

4.7 The provision of a Christmas park and ride service meets with the Council's aspirations to become the UK's Environment Capital. The Christmas park and ride service contributes to the sustainable transport agenda by reducing congestion and ensuring the accessibility of the city centre, therefore reducing CO2 emissions.

4.8 It is proposed that there is a provision of £29k to fund a Christmas park and ride service for 2010 in the council's budget. However this is still be approved by Council on 24 February 2010.

4.9 Dependent upon the outcome of the security provision review, it is estimated that 14 operational days (as the costs vary between Saturday and Sunday, until the split between days is known only an estimation can be given) can be undertaken during 2010 within the proposed £29k budget, however there would be no budget remaining to market or promote the service.

4.10 As detailed above, there have been some changes to the days the Christmas park and ride service has operated from year to year. It is thought that this could cause confusion to the public and therefore the provision set aside in the Council's budget, as mentioned above, is sufficient to continue with the format of operation provided in 2009.

4.11 There is no separate funding provision for marketing or promotion of the Christmas park and ride service. These costs need to be covered and the difference between the available budget and the actual cost of service provision should be used to market and promote the service to further reduce the number of motorists travelling into the city centre during the festive period.

4.12 Consideration has been given to extending the Christmas park and ride service to a year-round

park and ride service. At present there is insufficient demand or budget to consider this further at this time. The aspiration for a year-round park and ride service is set out in the Long Term Transport Strategy which will inform the third Local Transport Plan for Peterborough. A report on a year-round park and ride service could be provided in late 2010/early 2011.

5. KEY ISSUES

5.1 Should the funding provision proposed in this year's budget setting process be withdrawn it will not be possible to deliver a Christmas park and ride service from other budgets. In addition, it has not been possible in the past to deliver a Christmas park and ride service through sponsorship.

5.2 The issue of charging for the Christmas park and ride service needs to be addressed for 2010. This requires a further piece of work on what would be a reasonable fare for such a service.

6. IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Should a Christmas park and ride service not be delivered, there will be city wide implications, such as increased congestion, together with implications for visitors to the city.

6.2 The contracts in place with the service providers enable early termination should the budget provision be withdrawn. Current contracts have an end date of 28 December 2013 with an option to extend.

7. CONSULTATION

7.1 There is no consultation applicable to the contents of this report. Should it not be possible to deliver a Christmas park and ride service in the future the appropriate advertising will need to take place to inform all councillors, residents and potential users.

8. NEXT STEPS

8.1 Any recommendations from the Committee for changes to the Christmas park and ride service should be referred to the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, Housing and Community Development for consideration.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

9.1 None.

10. APPENDICES

10.1 None.

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