

## **Christine Boyd Statement to cabinet 14.11.2016**

Last year I decided to take a look at how a council could have possibly got to position where it believed a huge park and ride was the answer to its transport problems.

The trail quite quickly led me back to the 2014 transport strategy, but when I tried to get back further the evidence dried up.

What I found was that the transport strategy itself had not been well evidenced, and quite worryingly it relied upon a hypothetical assumption that the take up of P&R could be doubled, but without any indication of how that could be achieved.

This was then compounded by an unsupported belief that P&R did actually work and would take cars off the road at the right time of day, when congestion is at its worst. But it is now known that take up of P&R occurs mainly in the middle of the day and that commuters don't use P&R.

It actually shook my belief system when I realised that the assumptions fed into the model were unsupported – they had been made up.

I had reached the uncomfortable conclusion that you had inherited a Transport Strategy from the last administration that could never work.

This is not, by the way, a criticism of any Councillor; you did not have the information that is available today when you adopted the Strategy in 2014. But now you do!

Few people were ready to listen to this a year ago, but now the city is stalling, despite the fact that additional P&R has been provided.

The assumptions that were used to support the Transport Strategy have resulted in an oversupply of P&R spaces that no one wants to use. And even if they did, it is now known that this would do very little to help congestion.

This is the uncomfortable truth. I am appealing to you now to review your strategy before it is too late.