

## Christine Boyd Statement to Resources scrutiny 23.11.2016

I am going to say something that is quite shocking.

This council has now spent 800k on a P&R to the east and is proposing to spend 300k more **when there has never been a formal council decision to approve this project.**

**That's right, there has never been a formal decision to have a park and ride to the east of Bath.**

In 2014 council adopted the getting around Bath transport strategy, but that strategy did not commit the council to having another P&R it required the council to

*Identify need for increased park and ride capacity and to do a detailed assessment of sites through the placemaking plan as part of a wider parking strategy*

I have circulated a paper setting out all other instances where P&R has been considered by a decision making body of this council.

- Cabinet in May 2015 made a decision to consult.
- Council in November 2014 **NOTED** an officer report about P&R, asked the LDF Panel to reconsider sites and asked the CTE scrutiny panel to examine transport solutions to the east of Bath.
- Cabinet on the 4<sup>th</sup> May 2016 NOTED the LDF and scrutiny reports

None of these bodies actually approved a P&R to the east, nor did they consider or approve a report that identified need for increased P&R.

Nevertheless, financial decisions have been made to spend more than £1.1m

Cllr Clarke and Cllr Gerrish have now approved a 600K spend. Presumably the upper limit for a delegated financial decision is 300k

It is not acceptable to go on drawing down 300k tranches with no decision, no evidence of need, no visible progress and no scrutiny of how money is being spent

It was legitimate to spend money on evidencing need, but in the absence of an approved report setting out that need, it was highly dubious to move on to site selection, less alone procurement, and planning.

You must now urge Cabinet to take back control from Cllr Clarke, demand a full report setting out:

- The aims of the project
- The benefit of the project
- The evidence of need for the project
- The demand for additional park and ride in the short, medium and long term

This should be supported by a fully costed business case.

Only when this report is approved and a formal decision made to have a P&R to the east will the council be in a position to see the risks associated with this project and make a proper assessment of whether further funds should be spent.

Finally I have circulated extracts from the September 2015 consultation leaflet to remind you of the benefits that were supposed to come from P&R. The council now admits that none of the Environmental aims can be met. That alone is a reason to stop and demand that officers justify this project before more money is wasted.