

Christine Boyd statement to Cabinet 25th January 2017

- This report is at pains to argue that there is a policy background for an east park and ride. But in fact none of the policy documents cited here approve a P&R to the east or have an action to build one.
- The last definitive decision made on an east park and ride was in July 2011 when council voted to scrap the P&R on site F. The Resolution passed at that time required officers to:

work on alternatives to Bathampton Meadows P&R, possibly involving rail, as part of our future Transport Strategy

- That resolution has never been overturned, and there has been complete failure to look seriously at alternatives. (I have laid it around for you to consider)
- In 2014 the council set a 5.2m budget on the basis of that Resolution and restated that it should be used for alternatives to P&R on Bathampton meadows. The budget the report said;

*this item is in accordance with **the Council resolution** on the Bath Transport Package which agreed officers work on alternatives to Bathampton Meadows park and ride, involving rail, as part of our future Transport Strategy.*

- But today 1.1m of that budget has been spent on a P&R on Bathampton Meadows, in direct contravention of Council's Resolution.
- And now officers tell you that your preferred site is probably unachievable and is totally unaffordable at 17.5m and requiring a 102k subsidy.
- Don't you think its time to ask some searching questions of your officers, how could they have brought you to this place?
- To make a legally sound decision you must consider all relevant factors, by asking the right questions and taking reasonable steps to become acquainted with relevant information.
- But I have never seen you do this. In fact you willfully close your eyes and ears to relevant information and rely instead on irrelevant and unsubstantiated statements. The officers are all here – ask questions now!
- The problem is that officers don't want you anywhere near this decision; you are being treated like children, not as leaders.
- Accept this recommendation as it stands and you won't in fact be making a decision. You will be handing it to the very people who have got you into this mess.
- Accept this recommendation and we will all know that you don't have the stomach to choose site F yourself and, when this unworkable proposal is ditched, that you want to look Fobra in the eye and say it was not your decision.
- But that just won't wash. The people elect you to ask the questions on our behalf and to make sound, legal and rational decisions.
- Do the right thing, throw this out now without wasting any more time or money