

B&NES CABINET 25 January 2017 – Federation of Bath Resident's Associations

Good evening. I am speaking on behalf of FOBRA, the Federation of Bath Residents' Associations, which brings together 27 residents' associations across the city representing some 4,500 residents of Bath.

FOBRA has consistently supported the creation of a Park and Ride to the east of Bath, and believes that this is an essential component of the Bath Transport Strategy. Traffic congestion and air pollution have always been our members' highest concern. Traffic congestion blights the city, and air pollution harms both people and the built heritage of Bath. Almost 15,000 cars a day pour into or out of the city centre from the east (at London Street, Walcot). This is far too many, and it keeps rising. We believe that a Park and Ride to the east of the city can help reduce traffic and pollution as part of an overall transport strategy.

It may be the case that the P&R by itself would have a fairly limited impact on traffic in the centre or the approaches. But that is looking at it back-to-front. All the top-level Council policies – the Core Strategy, the Placemaking Plan, the Transport Strategy and the Public Realm and Movement Strategy – envisage a city centre with greatly reduced traffic and less city centre parking. The point is that as parking in the city centre is restricted in accordance with these policies – which FOBRA strongly supports - an eastern P&R will be needed to provide access from the east. On top of that, the eastern P&R will be required to accommodate the increased demand arising from development of the Enterprise Area.

We recognise the concerns about the impact of a P&R on the local area, but this must be balanced against the very serious effects of present and projected future levels of traffic on the city and those who live and work here. Of course, we support reasonable and cost-effective measures to mitigate the impact of the P&R.

I hardly need remind you that the city is a World Heritage Site. Traffic must be reduced to protect this heritage and preserve it for future generations, and the P&R will play a key part.