

**Statement to the 23.2.17 CTE PDS Panel meeting of B&NES Council  
regarding the Call-In of the 25.1.17 P&R East Cabinet Decision**

Thank you Chair for this opportunity to address the Panel.

For well over a year, I have been following the Park & Ride East decision-making process very closely. I have done so, not because I have a particular interest in whether or where Park & Ride East is built, but because

- as a policy development professional experienced in the economic development and environmental aspects of this type of infrastructure decision,
- as a resident who cares deeply about the enduring wellbeing of this locality,
- and as a former Overview & Scrutiny Officer of this Council,

**I understand both the importance of this decision to the economic and environmental prospects of our diverse communities, and critically, I also understand the difficulties associated with making the right decisions at the right time and in the right way.**

I have already made several public statements<sup>i</sup> (to Cabinet and PDS Panels) relevant to your consideration of the 9 interdependent grounds of the Call-In, and trust that these are already part of the evidence underpinning the decision you are here to make. However, given the **desirability of this decision being scrutinised *within* the Council rather than without in long and costly judicial battles**, and noting that the Panel has not publically approved a terms of reference for this Call-In meeting, I felt that the most useful additional contribution I could make to today's meeting, was to draft one so as to facilitate the **much needed rigorous and constructive scrutiny of the range of issues and interests at stake in what is a complex<sup>ii</sup> and controversial topic.**

Although the draft I submitted to you on Monday incorporates much of the one published with the meeting papers, key additions are sections on Context, Purpose, Approach and the Statutory Constraints. These additions, and particularly **the focus they imply on *the decision-making process rather than the decision outcome***, are designed to help you consider the range of evidence and arguments being presented to you afresh and alert you to new and emerging evidence and influences. I also hope that it will encourage you to explore less familiar and less heard perspectives, such as those who don't own or have access to cars or the 62% of those voting in the 2015 Council elections who didn't vote Conservative and so may not share the values driving this agenda.

So is developing this particular form of infrastructure in this particular location the best possible way of enhancing our locality's economic, social and environmental wellbeing? And is the decision being made at the right time and in the right way and for the right reasons? That's now for you to decide, but **if like me you doubt some or all of this, then as the Cabinet's critical friend, you should uphold the Call-In of this decision and for the good of Bath and North East Somerset as a whole, help the Cabinet to make a better one.**

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