

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COMMUNITY AND REGENERATION
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON 1ST AUGUST 2007

Park And Ride Task And Finish Group

Members considered a briefing paper from the Committee/Scrutiny Officer, which provided the Committee with recommendations following a scrutiny exercise conducted by the Task and Finish Group to look at the under use of the Park and Ride Scheme in Kidderminster.

The Committee was informed that the Park and Ride scheme was losing in excess of £40,000 per year and the Group was tasked with finding out whether to continue the scheme or stop it. The report provided two options for the Committee, which were to stop the scheme immediately or to wait until January 2008 to review the service in light of the impact of the decriminalisation of on-street parking.

Some Members felt that the cost to the Council each year for providing the scheme was only providing a service for a very small percentage of residents in the District and was therefore not value for money for Council Tax payers.

Members perceived that the current system and location of the park and ride scheme was not fit for purpose.

Other members believed that the Council should be discouraging people from taking cars into the town centres and encouraging an integrated transport system. It was felt by some Members that the Council should wait until January 2008 to see the impact from the decriminalisation of parking. This was especially so as there was already money in the budget for the service. It was felt by others that the decision should not wait that long. It was noted that there was a need to give 3 months notice to the Operator.

It was also highlighted that if the Council were to give notice to the operator and at a later date agreed to re-instate it, there would be no guarantee that the contractor would offer the service back at the same rate.

It was agreed that for park and ride to be successful, there would need to be advantages of using it such as making it cheaper than parking in town and being located in the right place.

RECOMMENDED to the Cabinet to Recommend to Council:

Due to the Park and Ride Service losing money each year, the facility be terminated as soon as possible.