

RECORD OF OFFICER DECISION

APPROVAL FOR TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF PARK & RIDE SITES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Decision made

To approve the temporary Closure of the Salisbury Park & Ride sites whilst Government travel restrictions are in place due to the Covid-19 Pandemic .

Made by: Parvis Khansari, Director for Highways and Environment

Background

1. As the Director for Highways and Environment, I am responsible for any matters relating to Parking Services in the County of Wiltshire on behalf of Wiltshire Council. The power to make a decision in respect of this matter is delegated to me pursuant to Wiltshire Council's Constitution.

Reason for decision

2. This decision would in other circumstances be taken by the Cabinet. However, in circumstances where the Cabinet is unable to meet to expedite its functions in a timely manner during the COVID-19 pandemic, this decision is being taken in accordance with the power referred to in paragraph 1 above. This decision will be reported to the next meeting of the Cabinet.

Background

3. Following the instruction by the Government for people to only make essential journeys to protect against the Covid-19 pandemic, use of the Salisbury Park & Ride sites has reduced significantly with less than 10 people per day parking at each of the sites each day. Use is expected to reduce further following the decision to temporarily remove charges at Council run car parks in the City Centre
4. Usage of commercially provided bus services in and around the City has also significantly reduced and fewer drivers are available due to self-isolation recommendations. The Salisbury Reds bus company is therefore in the process of revising all of its bus services to run less frequently until such time as Government travel restrictions are lifted. Buses would provide an hourly service to the housing estates close to the Park & Ride Car Parks, but this level of service is not appropriate for a Park & Ride scheme.
5. In these circumstances, continuing to operate the Salisbury Park & Ride scheme is not sustainable and so it is recommended that the Park & Ride car parks are closed until Government travel restrictions are lifted, and customers advised to park in the City Centre instead.

6. I confirm that in making this decision I have considered the following in line with Wiltshire Council's Constitution: **(Please insert 'Yes' / 'No' / 'Not Applicable' and any other comments necessary to evidence the issue identified has been addressed)**

Key decision requirements	Not Applicable
Views of relevant cabinet member(s), committee chairman, area board(s)	Agreed by Wiltshire Council Covid-19 Gold Command
Consideration of the area boards and delegated decision checklist for officers on the issue of when and how to involve local councillors and area boards in decisions about local services	No
Implication of any council policy, initiative, strategy or procedure	Yes
Consultation in accordance with requirements and expectations of consultation with the public	No
Range of options available	Alternative options such as keeping site open but with reduced level of bus service considered, but felt to be unsuitable for a Park & Ride Scheme as unlikely to meet customer needs.
Staffing, financial and legal implications	Not applicable
Risk assessment and equality implications	Yes
Involvement of statutory officers and/or directors	Yes
Regional or national guidance from other bodies	No
The council's constitution	No
This contract is suitable for execution under the e-signature process.	N/A

Conflict of Interest

7. Not applicable.

Other options considered

8. Keep Park and Ride site open with special service running every 15 minutes, rather than diversion of ordinary bus service to serve site. This was felt to be unsustainable as buses would run empty for most of the time.
9. Keep Park and Ride site open with reduced frequency bus service (once per hour rather than every 15 minutes). This was felt to be inappropriate as a Park & Ride scheme needs a frequent bus service to be a credible alternative to City Centre parking.



Made by:

Parvis Khansari, Director for Highways and Environment

Date: 17 April 2020