

**Report to the Asset Management and
Economic Development Cabinet
Committee**



**Epping Forest
District Council**

Report reference: AMED-011-2015/16

Date of meeting: 10 December 2015

Portfolio: Asset Management and Economic Development

Subject: Park & Ride Desktop Research

Responsible Officer: Mike Warr (01992 564472)

Democratic Services: Jackie Leither (01992 564756)

Recommendations/Decisions Required:

- (1) To note the attached findings of desktop research into Park and Ride schemes in Chelmsford and Colchester, and their relevance to any potential park and Ride proposal for North Weald Airfield.**
- (2) To decide on the basis of the further information provided, whether to still pursue the bespoke work from Essex County Council Highways.**

Executive Summary:

The attached Appendix 1 sets out some of the key facts gathered during a desktop research exercise to understand more about the Park & Ride schemes implemented by Essex County Council in Chelmsford and Colchester. This exercise was carried out in lieu of an outstanding Essex County Council report on the feasibility of a Park and Ride scheme at North Weald in order to gain a better understanding of some of the key issues for consideration.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

To provide the committee with some background to the park and ride schemes developed elsewhere in Essex in lieu of receiving a detailed and technical feasibility report from the County Council in respect of a potential park and ride scheme at North Weald.

Other Options for Action:

To consider whether it is still worth pursuing the report from Essex County Council.

Report:

1. At the Asset Management Cabinet Committee meeting in October 2014 the idea of utilising North Weald Airfield for a Park and Ride Scheme to Epping was raised. It was agreed to explore the issue further with Essex County Council as the transport authority and, in particular, in relation to their experience at Chelmsford.
2. Contact was therefore made with Essex County Council (ECC) and a meeting took place between officers from EFDC and ECC to discuss this. It was agreed with ECC

that the outputs of work already underway as part of the Council's Local Plan work, were relevant and that they would prepare a report. However, to date, despite a number of reminders, we have not received a report on the feasibility of such a Park and Ride scheme.

3. The attached desktop research was originally undertaken at the time of the original contact with ECC in order to better understand the background the other schemes they have undertaken. However, given the lack of any further report or evidence examining Park and Ride this research is now shared with members for their information.
4. Additionally, a small amount of further desktop research has been undertaken in order to pull together some facts around the most recently opened park and ride scheme at Cuckoo Farm, Colchester. Evidence around the impact of this scheme is limited currently due to the short period that has elapsed since it opened in April 2015 however, as with the Chelmsford research, a range of ECC, Colchester Borough Council and other publicly available sources have been examined in order to pull out relevant facts and observations.
5. No definitive attempt has been made to draw a final conclusion on whether Park and Ride is feasible at North Weald based on this research evidence alone. However, throughout the document we have highlighted points, facts, observations and other information that may be of key relevance.
6. Amongst the research, some of the key themes to emerge were:
 - The motivating factor of the price differential between park and ride rates and town centre parking rates
 - The levels of subsidy that are having to be contributed by ECC in order to maintain the service at the lower prices and thereby maintain demand
 - The importance of bus priority, bus stop and signal change measures to the success of the schemes
 - The provision of fast journey times and service reliability
 - The scale of town centre land freed up for development by the migration of long-stay parking from the town centre to the park and ride schemes
 - The aims of the schemes to relieve key congestion pinch-points
7. This research document is not intended to replace the proposed detailed feasibility report from Essex County Council in respect of a North Weald scheme however it is hoped that the information gathered to date is of interest and value to Members, in assessing whether there is merit in still pursuing the County Council to produce the bespoke piece of work for North Weald Airfield. This is particularly relevant as the report seems to cast doubt on the viability of North Weald Park and Ride.

Resource Implications:

None as this is an information report.

Legal and Governance Implications:

None as this is an information report.

Safer, Cleaner and Greener Implications:

None as this is an information report.

Consultation Undertaken:

None as this is an information report.

Background Papers:

Contact Mike Warr, Economic Development Officer ext 4472

Risk Management:

N/A

Due Regard Record

This page shows **which groups of people are affected** by the subject of this report. It sets out **how they are affected** and how any **unlawful discrimination** they experience can be eliminated. It also includes information about how **access to the service(s)** subject to this report can be improved for the different groups of people; and how they can be assisted to **understand each other better** as a result of the subject of this report.

S149 Equality Act 2010 requires that due regard must be paid to this information when considering the subject of this report.

Not applicable as this is an information report detailing findings from a desktop research exercise.

