

12 June 2019

Draft Cabinet response to recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee

The document sets out the draft response of the Cabinet Member to recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committee on 4 June 2019 concerning the Seacourt Park and Ride Extension. The Cabinet is asked to amend and agree a formal response as appropriate.

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Recommendation	Agree?	Comment
Recommendation: That the Cabinet does not grant final project approval for the Seacourt Park and Ride Extension.	No	<p>The discussion at the Scrutiny Committee reflected previously stated opinions on this project. As the Chair of the Committee noted, some members simply don't accept the evidence submitted in relation to the need for the extension and its impact, and that continues to be the case.</p> <p>The report details the financial impact of the project over 30 years, but it is important to note that over the next ten years it is highly likely that the availability of public car parking in the city centre will be significantly reduced; it is also important to note that the lease on another of Oxford's park and ride car parks expires within the same period and will need to be renegotiated. Furthermore, while a substantial proportion of journeys to the city centre are made using the park and ride service, there are still many journeys in the city that are being made in the private car, all of which contribute to congestion and air pollution which seriously impacts on the health and well-being of the city's residents and workers. Finally, Cabinet is reminded that Seacourt is frequently operationally full, demonstrating a clear current need for additional capacity on the western approaches to the city.</p> <p>It therefore reasonably follows that there is a need for additional capacity in the park and ride system where it can be achieved. The proposed expansion at Seacourt Park & Ride will make a significant contribution in addressing this need. This is why the project has been repeatedly approved by a substantial majority of Full Council, including the allocation of the budget for the project.</p> <p>I therefore recommend that the Cabinet approves the project as outlined in the report.</p>

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