



GUILDFORD PARK AND RIDE FARES REVIEW

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE (GUILDFORD)

10th MARCH 2010

KEY ISSUE

This report recommends a revised fares strategy for Guildford Park & Ride services with effect from 5 April 2010.

SUMMARY

The report sets out the current park and ride fares structure, and compares this with other towns in England. It puts forward a revised fares proposal and provides an update on service performance.

Report by

HEAD OF TRANSPORT FOR SURREY

Surrey Atlas Ref.

N/A

GUILDFORD B.C. WARD (S)

N/A

COUNTY ELECTORAL DIVISION (S)

N/A

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to agree that:

- (i) the revised fares and pricing strategy as set out in this report should take effect from 5 April 2010.

INTRODUCTION and BACKGROUND

- 1 The operational funding of the Guildford Park & Ride services is currently met by the County Council's Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) on-street parking surplus and from the fares revenue received on-bus. At present car parking is free at all four sites (Artington, Ladymead, Merrow and Spectrum).
- 2 During 2009 the Transportation Task Group recommended that annual Park & Ride fares reviews should be carried out. The current fares charged on the Park & Ride services were last revised on 30 March 2009 and are set out below. From April 2010 it is proposed that town centre car parking charges will be amended; while long-stay parking charges will remain at £0.80/hour, short-stay charges will increase from £1.00 to £1.10/hour. In addition an evening charge of £1 will be introduced at many town centre car parks.
- 3 Current charges at the Park and Ride sites are shown in **TABLE 1** below.

	Adult return	Adult weekly	Adult monthly
Merrow	£1.20	£5.00	n/a
Artington	£1.50	£6.00	£21.00
Spectrum (Monday - Friday)	£1.70	£7.00	£23.00
Ladymead (Saturday)	£1.20	n/a	n/a

- 4 A comparison has been made with other Park & Ride services provided in the south of England. These are shown in **TABLE 2** below. It can be seen that Park and Ride in Guildford continues to represent very good value for money.

	Adult return fare	Parking charge
Exeter	£2.00	Free
Horsham	Free	£1.50 per car
Maidstone	£2.50 peak / £1.50 off peak	Free
Oxford	£2.50 peak / £2.20 off peak	Free
Plymouth	£1.70 - £2.80 peak	Free
Salisbury	Free	£2.50
Winchester	Free	£2.70

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO FARE STRUCTURE

- 5 In line with the strategy to maintain differential fares charging at Guildford Park & Ride sites **TABLE 3** below shows the proposed charges at the sites from Monday 5 April. In summary, adult return fares have been increased by 10p at all sites, with equivalent increases to weekly and monthly fares.

	Adult return	Adult weekly	Adult monthly
Merrow	£1.30	£5.50	£21.00
Artington	£1.60	£6.50	£23.00
Spectrum (Monday - Friday)	£1.80	£7.50	£25.00
Ladymead (Saturday)	£1.30	n/a	n/a

- 6 Monthly season tickets are not currently available for the Merrow service since these cannot be purchased on the bus, and the bus station ticket office is run by a different operator. However it is intended that a monthly tickets should be available for all routes, and since contracts are shortly subject to review (see paragraph 9 below) the £21 monthly ticket will be offered as soon as it is practicable to do so.

CURRENT USAGE

- 7 Passenger usage for the calendar years 2008 and 2009 is detailed below in **TABLE 4**.

	Jan 2008 - Dec 2008	Jan 2009 - Dec 2009
Merrow	n/a	150,000
Artington	365,000	420,000
Spectrum	375,000	320,000
Totals:	740,000	890,000

- 8 The additional usage at Artington demonstrates the effectiveness of the car park extension which opened in December 2008. Previously the car park was operating at capacity. The Merrow site, which opened during October 2008, has taken passengers from the pressurised Spectrum car park, particularly due to the attractive fares.

CONTRACTS

- 9 The Merrow Park & Ride Service 300 is currently operated under contract by First Pegasus. The contract is due to expire on 31 December 2010. In light of the County Council's decision to terminate the Pegasus school bus pilot project with effect from 24 July 2010 it is expected that the service 300 contract will also terminate on this date. Officers of Transport for Surrey are working with colleagues in Procurement to agree the best possible value for money solution to maintain the service.

CONSULTATIONS

- 10 The strategy in this report has been developed following several meetings of the Transportation Task Group.

EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 11 There are no direct Equality and Diversity implications as a result of this report.

CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 12 There are no direct Crime and Disorder implications as a result of this report.

FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 13 The additional fares income as a result of increasing the fares will reduce the pressure on the CPZ on-street parking surplus.

CONCLUSIONS & REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 14 It is recommended that the Guildford Local Committee agree the revised fares and pricing strategy as set out in this report to take effect from 5 April 2010. The proposed fares revisions will increase farebox revenue thus reducing pressure on the CPZ account.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 15 Subject to Guildford Local Committee approval the revised fares will be introduced on Monday 5 April 2010.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS	None
