

Norwich Park and Ride fare changes

Report by the Director of Environment, Transport and Development

Summary

This report seeks Members approval for fare changes at Norwich Airport Park and Ride. As the Airport Park and Ride site is the only site which falls within the geographical boundary of the Norwich Highways Agency Joint Committee, your approval is formally required to amend and advertise The Norwich City Council (Norwich Airport Park and Ride) Traffic Regulation Order 2003.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Norwich Park and Ride service is provided by Norfolk County Council. There are six sites around Norwich at Costessey, Thickthorn, Harford, Postwick, Sprowston and Airport (Hellesdon).
- 1.2 The County Council's Cabinet sets the fare levels for Park and Ride, but the Airport site sits within the geographical boundary of the Norwich Highways Agency Joint Committee.
- 1.3 Park and ride services are primarily intended to reduce the number of single occupancy car journeys into the city to reduce congestion and carbon emissions. This is our agreed policy outlined in the Norwich Area Transport Strategy (NATS).
- 1.4 There is a very competitive car parking sector in Norwich. Park and Ride has around 33% market share, Norwich City Council around 30% and private operators the remaining 37%. Therefore to meet the aims of NATS, our pricing policy reflects the need to make the service more attractive for people travelling alone.
- 1.5 The County Council intends to remove the operating subsidy for park and ride, which is currently £2m, by March 2013. A combination of increased fares and reduced operation and site management costs will be required to achieve this. Norfolk County Council Cabinet will consider the fares increase as part of the overall budget planning at it's meeting on 24 January 2011. A verbal update will be given at NHAJC.

2.0 New fares

- 2.1 The current and proposed fares are detailed in Appendix 1.
- 2.2 We currently allow free travel on Park and Ride services for pass holders after 0930. The current cost of reimbursement for travel is capped, in an agreement with Norfolk districts, to £70k per year. This scheme transfers to upper tier councils from April this year.

- 2.3 Department for Transport guidance on eligible services is quite clear. We can exclude the Park and Ride service from the national concession because, “It is intended to exclude services where the fare includes payment for something over and above the simple carriage of people.” This could include a number of different things, such as a complimentary drink, newspaper, or a parking space, where a “special amenity” is provided.
- 2.4 Therefore we also propose to withdraw free travel from park and ride services and introduce a flat return fare for pass holders at times when free travel would otherwise be available.
- 3.0 **Legal Implications:**
- The Norwich City Council (Norwich Airport Park and Ride) Traffic Regulation Order 2003 will be amended and advertised for the price increases and changes to the payment system in accordance with Sections 32 and 35 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.
- 4.0 **Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) :**
- An equality impact assessment has been undertaken. We accept the requirement to pay a new fee to access a service (e.g. the introduction of a charge at park and ride sites for concession pass holders) could disproportionately impact on people. However, there are other alternate local bus services available for pass holders to travel free.
- 5.0 **Communications :**
- A promotional campaign will be undertaken to explain the changes to the fares.
- 6.0 **Section 17 – Crime and Disorder Act**
- 6.1 There are no specific crime and disorder implications. However, the provision of high quality public transport and a safe, secure parking environment are identified as key reasons for attracting users to the Park and Ride service.
- 7.0 **Conclusions**
- 7.1 Park & Ride is a high quality bus service and generates very good levels of customer satisfaction from users, whilst making a major contribution to tackling the city’s congestion. The challenge is to maximise income from charges (reducing the subsidy), but at the same time continue to grow the usage of the service.

Members are asked to:

- (i) Resolve to amend the charges for parking at the Airport Park & Ride site, as detailed in Appendix 1;

- (ii) Resolve to make all necessary changes to the wording of the Norwich City Council ((Norwich Airport Park and Ride) Traffic Regulation Order 2003;
- (iii) Request the Norwich City Council to advertise and introduce these changes to the Norwich City Council (Norwich Airport Park and Ride) Traffic Regulation Order 2003 in accordance with Sections 32 and 35 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

Officer Contact

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper please get in touch with:

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Appendix 1 - Pay per person fares and season tickets
Scale of Charges and provisions to be applied from 4th April 2011

Tickets obtained as specified below are required for use of park and ride facility.

Vehicles parked at Sprowston, Harford, Thickthorn, Costessey and Postwick Park and Ride sites do not need to display a parking ticket in the vehicle.

Fares payable on the bus

Individual Adult daily return prior to 1230 hours that day	£2.30
Individual Adult daily return after 1230 hours that day	£2.00
Group saver ticket for one car with up to 5 adult occupants (Monday to Friday)	£4.00
Group saver ticket for one car with up to 5 adult occupants (Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays)	£3.80
(A maximum of 4 young people under 16 per vehicle travel FREE with an adult or group ticket)	
Concessionary pass holders (before 0930 hours Monday to Friday)	Charges above apply
Concessionary pass holders (after 0930 hrs Monday to Friday and at any time weekends or bank holidays)	£1.00
Unaccompanied children (under 16) return ticket	£1.00
Unaccompanied children (under 16) single ticket	£0.50
Single Adult Fare (or for single Adult trip separated from family or multi adult ticket)	£2.30
Cycle and Ride	£1.00

Season Tickets

10 Trip Ticket (£1.80 per return trip)	£21.00
Rainbow Rider (valid for 4 weeks)	£39.00
Annual Ticket (12 months parking for the price of 10)	£390.00