

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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COMMITTEE Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure DATE 27<sup>th</sup> October 2009

CORPORATE DIRECTOR Gordon McIntosh

TITLE OF REPORT Festive Park and Ride Services 2009

REPORT NUMBER: EP&I/09/108

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To advise members of potential festive Park and Ride services on the four Sundays in the run up to Christmas to mitigate additional traffic in the City Centre and to improve the festive shopping experience.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is proposed that the Committee Instructs the Corporate Director for Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure

- a) To implement the additional Sunday Services for Kingswells – City Centre - Bridge of Don Park and Ride for the festive period as detailed in the main body of this report.

### 3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The proposed service was subject to competitive tender. First Aberdeen are the preferred bidder.

The operating cost, to the Council, less anticipated revenue is expected to be £5,000. It is not possible to operate Dyce and Calder Park services this year due to a lack of available funding within the Park & Ride budget.

This service can be delivered within the existing approved budget allocation for 2009/10 for Park and Ride operations.

### 4. SERVICE & COMMUNITY IMPACT

A key aim of the Community Plan is to ensure that all citizens have access to a range of transport options that reflect differing needs of age, gender, disability and income.

The Vibrant, Dynamic & Forward Looking document highlights the requirement for a transport network that reflects the needs of all those travelling in the city.

### 5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None

## 6. REPORT

### **1.0 Background**

Until 2006, Union Street was closed to all traffic between Bridge Street and Market Street during the four weekends in the run up to Christmas.

Neither First Aberdeen or Stagecoach Bluebird have ever provided a commercial Sunday Service from the Park and Ride sites during the festive closures. In an effort to improve the accessibility of the city centre by public transport during these busy weekend periods, Aberdeen City Council has previously provided Sunday Park and Ride Services.

The Council funded services operated on three routes, between Kingswells and Bridge of Don Park & Ride sites, Dyce to the City Centre and from Calder Park along Wellington Road.

Sunday services were last operated in 2008, when the Kingswells to Bridge of Don service carried approximately 435 passengers per day. The Calder Park service did not operate. This had represented a decline in passenger numbers from previous years when around 650 passengers per day were being carried on the Kingswells to Bridge of Don route in 2007.

### **2.0 Main Considerations**

2.1 Parking within the City Centre represents a significant challenge to visitors during the festive periods, with significant traffic volumes being present within the city centre and the main car parks generally becoming full early in the day with a lower turnover of parking spaces than throughout normal business hours.

2.2 From the 26<sup>th</sup> October 2009, service 215 operated by Stagecoach Bluebird, will have an hourly service on Sundays between Kingswells and Union Square. This will operate between the hours of 9:00 and 23:00.

2.3 Aberdeen City Centre Association have raised concerns that recent reductions made by First Aberdeen to the commercial bus network within Aberdeen City will have a significant impact on the accessibility of the city centre this winter, particularly with expected growth in footfall as a result of new developments within the City Centre.

2.4 To mitigate these negative effects on the local road network and the possible perception of Aberdeen City Centre as a highly congested and stressful environment to visit, tenders were invited for additional Park and Ride bus services.

2.5 Appendix I details the proposed route and timetable for the Festive Sunday Park and Ride Service. The route of the service has been varied from First Aberdeen's Monday to Saturday service 40 route, diverting via Guild Street to allow passengers to directly access Union Square. With the exception of the

diversion into Union Square, the route is identical to First Aberdeen's existing Park & Ride service.

First Aberdeen have indicated that until traffic impacts of developments in the City Centre are established that they are unlikely to change any of their current network.

2.6 The Service being proposed would offer a promotional return single fare of £1.50, which is fifty pence cheaper than the standard Park & Ride return. In addition to this, all existing First Aberdeen weekly or season tickets will be accepted on the service.

## 7. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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## 8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

### Appendix I

#### Route, Timetable and Fares.

##### Service Summary Timetable.

Bridge of Don P&R	09:00	09:15	09:30	09:45	10:00	10:15	10:30	10:45
Guild Street for Union Square	09:20	09:35	09:50	10:05	10:20	10:35	10:50	11:05
Kingswells P&R	09:55	10:10	10:25	10:40	10:55	11:10	11:25	11:40

Kingswells P&R	10:00	10:15	10:30	10:45	11:00	11:15	11:30	11:45
Guild Street for Union Square	10:35	10:50	11:05	11:20	11:35	11:50	12:05	12:20
Bridge of Don P&R	10:55	11:10	11:25	11:40	11:55	12:10	12:25	12:40

Bridge of Don P&R	11:00	11:15	11:30	11:45	12:00	12:15	12:30	12:45
Guild Street for Union Square	11:20	11:35	11:50	12:05	12:20	12:35	12:50	13:05
Kingswells P&R	11:55	12:10	12:25	12:40	12:55	13:10	13:25	13:40

Kingswells P&R	12:00	12:15	12:30	12:45	13:00	13:15	13:30	13:45
Guild Street for Union Square	12:35	12:50	13:05	13:20	13:35	13:50	14:05	14:20
Bridge of Don P&R	12:55	13:10	13:25	13:40	13:55	14:10	14:25	14:40

Bridge of Don P&R	13:00	13:15	13:30	13:45	14:00	14:15	14:30	14:45
Guild Street for Union Square	13:20	13:35	13:50	14:05	14:20	14:35	14:50	15:05
Kingswells P&R	13:55	14:10	14:25	14:40	14:55	15:10	15:25	15:40

Kingswells P&R	14:00	14:15	14:30	14:45	15:00	15:15	15:30	15:45
Guild Street for Union Square	14:35	14:50	15:05	15:20	15:35	15:50	16:05	16:20
Bridge of Don P&R	14:55	15:10	15:25	15:40	15:55	16:10	16:25	16:40

Bridge of Don P&R	15:00	15:15	15:30	15:45	16:00	16:15	16:30	16:45
Guild Street for Union Square	15:20	15:35	15:50	16:05	16:20	16:35	16:50	17:05
Kingswells P&R	15:55	16:10	16:25	16:40	16:55	17:10	17:25	17:40

Kingswells P&R	16:00	16:15	16:30	16:45	17:00	17:15	17:30	17:45
Guild Street for Union Square	16:35	16:50	17:05	17:20	17:35	17:50	18:05	18:20
Bridge of Don P&R	16:55	17:10	17:25	17:40	17:55	18:10	18:25	18:40

Bridge of Don P&R	17:00	17:15	17:30	17:45	18:00	18:15	18:30	
Guild Street for Union Square	17:20	17:35	17:50	18:05	18:20	18:35	18:50	
Kingswells P&R	17:55	18:10	18:25	18:40	18:55	19:10	19:25	

##### Fare Structure:

Kingswells or Bridge of Don Park & Ride site to City Centre: £1.50 Adult Return (including two children aged under 16 for free).

Kingswells or Bridge of Don Park & Ride site to City Centre: £1.00 Child Return.

Existing valid First Aberdeen Day or Season tickets will be accepted for travel on this service.

National Entitlement Cards/Concession Cards will be valid for use on this service.

### Service Route:

Outwith the City Centre this service will follow the route of the existing Park & Ride service between Kingswells and Bridge of Don. The only alteration is within the city centre where this service will travel down Bridge Street, along Guild Street before returning to Union Street via Market Street, to allow a direct service to Union Square.

Outward route is the reverse of the inward route.

