

**CONSULTATION FROM SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL-  
USE CAR PARKS 1 AND 2 AS 'PARK AND RIDE' FACILITY FOR  
SOUTHEND HOSPITAL TOGETHER WITH ASSOCIATED WORKS,  
SOUTHEND AIRPORT, EASTWOODBURY CRESCENT, SOUTHEND-  
ON-SEA. APPLICATION NOS. SOS/03/00296&8/FUL.**

## **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This consultation relates to two car parks on the southern boundary of Southend Airport fronting Eastwoodbury aCrescent, Car Park 1 being south of the terminal building and Car Park 2 being opposite McDonalds on the other side of the access from the Harp House roundabout. Both car parks can be accessed either from the two airport accesses in Eastwoodbury Crescent or the Harp House roundabout via the airport's internal road system.
- 1.2 Car Park 1 will have a capacity of 164 spaces and Car Park 2 will have 97 spaces, making a total of 261 spaces. Works are proposed to improve the fencing, surfacing and lighting of both areas which will result in an improvement to the appearance of the area. The bus taking employees to and from the hospital will enter the site from the Harp House roundabout, stop outside each car park on the internal airport road and exit the airport via the access at the western end of Eastwoodbury Crescent.
- 1.3 The park and ride service would operate Mondays to Fridays, 0630 to 2200 hours, with two periods of peak demand, 0645 to 0900 hours and 1400 to 1800 hours. During these times, a bus not exceeding 72 seats would operate at 10 minute intervals, at all other times a 16 seat minibus would operate every 20 minutes.

## **2 JUSTIFICATION**

- 2.1 The reason for the applications is the severe shortage of parking at Southend Hospital in Prittlewell Chase, Westcliff-on-Sea, which has recently been well publicised in the local press. This is as a result of the transfer of all major medical services to Southend following the closure of Rochford Hospital, without adequate parking provision being made on the consolidated site in Southend.
- 2.2 In a letter accompanying the application, it is contended that the proposals will lead to an overall reduction in the length and number of car journeys in the locality, thereby reducing pollution overall, traffic congestion on local roads and removing on-street parking in residential roads around the hospital site.
- 2.3 it is also stated that this is a relatively short term solution whilst the hospital explores longer term parking options and in the event of the airport requiring the spaces as its business develops in the future, a temporary permission of up to three years would be acceptable to both parties. Any lease Agreement would

provide further controls and in particular contain an option to determine at short notice should airport operations require the area.

### **3 CONCLUSIONS**

- 3.1 These car parks form an integral and vital part of the airport infrastructure but are currently surplus to requirements due to the low passenger numbers passing through the airport. The car parks were required to be retained for airport use in the conditions attached to the permission granted by this Council for a new terminal and railway station on the eastern perimeter of the airport, but this development has not been implemented so the conditions are not operative.
- 3.2 Proposals for alterations to the airport runway were reported to Committee on 20 February 2003, and if these are approved, passenger numbers at the airport may increase, although this is likely to be some years hence if at all. There are other car parks within the airport and one to the east of Warner's Bridge, the latter having been used for both airport parking and as 'park and ride' for Southend Town Centre at Christmas time in the past. It is essential however that the parking requirements of the airport are met at all times and as referred to above, this is the stated intention.

### **4 RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES** to inform Southend-on-Sea Borough Council that no objection is raised to these applications provided that:
- (1) The parking requirements of the Airport take precedence at all times.
  - (2) The granting of permission for these temporary arrangements does not result in any impetus being lost to provide a satisfactory long-term solution to the parking problems of Southend Hospital.

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