

PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION RECORD



Report subject	Creekmoor Park and Ride: Extension of use as a COVID19 Regional Testing Centre
Decision maker	Cllr Mike Greene in consultation with Cllr Nicola Greene
Decision date	Not before 6 October 2021
Decision taken	<p>To extend the current license in line with a recent Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) request for prolonged use of the site as a COVID 19 Regional Testing Site (RTS) until 31 March 2022.</p> <p>To delegate responsibility to negotiate the change in formal license details to the Director for Transport and Engineering in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holders.</p>
Reasons for the decision	<p>There is a formal license in place for the Creekmoor Park and Ride site to be used for COVID 19 related testing. The DHSC have recently requested that this existing arrangement be extended due to the continuing position with respect to COVID 19 and their continued need for testing the local population.</p> <p>The impact of this extension has potential to positively influence a wide selection of our population in the short term while also likely to result in the cancellation of the Poole based Christmas Park and Ride bus service for a second year running. The relevant ward councillors have been consulted and are fully supportive.</p>
Call-in and urgency:	This decision is subject to a 5-day call in period.
Corporate Director	Kate Ryan Chief Operations Officer
Responsible officer	Julian McLaughlin Director of Transport and Engineering
Wards	Creekmoor
Status	Open
Background	<p>The initial use of the Creekmoor Park and Ride site as a regional testing site was agreed and supported by both the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) and BCP Council. It forms one of many similar sites around the Country as part of the national testing network.</p> <p>A formal license is in place that covers the use of the site for COVID testing purposes. A previous exchange of letters had already adjusted the minor detail of the original license by deleting previous review dates. At present the resultant license includes for a mutual review of the position planned for the end of September 2021. The most recent request seeks to extend use of the site beyond the current licence end date of 31 December 2021.</p>

	<p>Local Ward Councillor support has been strong throughout the Pandemic given the major benefit of the RTS to the health of the public. Both the scale and ease of access are important in assisting the DHSC meet the varying public testing demands over time.</p> <p>On 21 July 2021 the DHSC indicated that due to the evolving pandemic position it would be likely that a continued use of the site would be necessary through to (and potentially beyond) 31 March 2022, and the need to remove the current 30 September 2021 review date.</p> <p>This decision covers the change in License that would be required to satisfy continued testing needs to the benefit of the public for the period shown above.</p> <p>The site is designated as Highway with the license designed for an alternative use. Legal services have been instrumental in forming an acceptable arrangement and would need to be fully involved in defining future needs and to reflect such in an appropriate written form. This decision therefore seeks to allow delegated authority to the Director of Transport and Engineering in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holders to deal with the detail in an appropriate manner and so that the site can continue to assist to the benefit of the public.</p>
Options appraisal	<p>Alternative options are limited given that the site is in place and operational at present. The disruption to testing continuity if the RTC were to be moved would be considerable as would the cost of doing so.</p> <p>Other than for Christmas park and ride related activity the site would not be used for the extended period being requested and as would represent an obvious preferred solution.</p>
Consultation undertaken	<p>In advance of this decision being drafted Ward Councillors have been consulted and are fully supportive of the extension being requested given the clear and considerable benefit to the wider public.</p> <p>The provision of RTC's across the Country is part of the continued national strategy to reduce the risk of COVID 19.</p> <p>The ward Councillors also welcome a potential minor adjustment to the site layout to allow for some DHSC staff to park on site to help reduce any future potential impacts on the local highway. The DHSC are aware and are currently considering minor adjustment to the site layout. The Ward Councillors also wish that those few residents living adjacent to the site receive a letter drop so that they are informed by DHSC that the extension is to happen. DHSC are aware and are currently progressing this detail.</p>
Financial/Resource implications	<p>If an extension decision is approved DHSC have already agreed to continue to provide BCP Council payment for its continued use and in accord with the License. Park and Ride for Christmas costs the Council a relatively small sum to support. Cancellation of the</p>

	arrangement due to this extension would therefore not cause a revenue pressure to the existing budget.
Summary of legal implications	The alternative use of the site for COVID 19 testing requires a formal agreement to be in place. Legal services would be directly involved in forming a revised position in accord with the relevant Highways Act. This would be through a simple exchange of letters to confirm the adjustment or through an updated licence. Yet to be determined.
Summary of sustainability impact	None. This site is by appointment only for those in need of a test and for vehicle-based visitation only.
Summary of public health implications	The continuation of the license would allow the DHSC to continue its live saving work for the benefit of the local population.
Summary of equality implications	None. The RTS is open to the public by appointment only and for car-based usage by design. Other sites for similar testing and by different modes of travel also exist as does home based testing and other developing means to cover the needs of the whole population. Access to testing in one form or another is key so that testing can support against the pandemic and at scale when required and to safeguard lives.
Summary of risk assessment	There are no major risks identified if the DHSC are to be allowed to prolonged use of the site. The disbenefit of losing the Christmas park and ride facilities is felt to be relatively insignificant compared to the benefit that the testing facility would provide.
Conflicts of interest declared by Cabinet member consulted on this decision	Not applicable
Background papers	None