

Annex C – Park and Ride External Pressures

- C1. There are a number of pressures which will affect the patronage of the park and ride service in the future irrespective of the option chosen for the new contract.
- C2. Capacity of Park and Ride car parks -- Continued patronage increases will be limited by the capacity of the car parks at the sites. The Askham Bar site is regularly full by 10:00am and other sites are full at peak times during the year. It is projected that the capacity of more of the sites will be reached over the next 5 years. The guaranteed availability of a car parking space is one of the key attractions of the park and ride option for travellers. If car parking availability was reduced the travel choice for visitors over a longer period may be affected. 43% of passengers travel on their own suggesting that encouraging car sharing could have a significant affect on the future car capacity issues.
- C3. Reduced council controlled city centre car parking -- Owing to developments and sales the number of city centre car parking spaces controlled by the council is expected to reduce by over 25% over the next few years. The new operators will manage the pricing structure to maximise their income which may lead to direct competition with the Park and Ride service.
- C4. Introduction of nation-wide concessionary fares -- The experience gained since the introduction of free concessionary travel in the North Yorkshire area suggests that York will attract a significant number of visitors who may expect to be able to use the Park and Ride service for free. Concessionary fare passengers from the North Yorkshire area have increased from 27,000 per month to over 45,000 per month during the period from April to December 2006 and now represent approximately 10% of passenger boardings. Following the anticipated introduction of free nationwide local bus travel for people over 60 it is likely that additional travellers may be encouraged to use the service rather than the city centre car parks leading to further park and ride car park and bus capacity issues. It is possible that the reimbursement required for the additional passengers may not be covered by the formula based funding from the government. Detail of the nationwide scheme is not yet available but its introduction is likely to have a significant affect on the park and ride operation.
- C5. Condition of site facilities -- The age of the sites means that significant maintenance expenditure is likely to be required during the term of the next contract to ensure the infrastructure is kept at a good standard.
- C6. Increased traffic congestion -- Even with all of the measures proposed within the Local Transport Plan to encourage the use of alternative travel modes it is anticipated that traffic levels will increase within the city centre by up to 7% over the next few years. Increased

traffic will hinder the reliability of the park and ride services and reduce its attraction unless extensive bus priority measures are introduced.

- C7. Competition from longer distance public transport -- Improvements to rail services e.g Harrogate line enhancements may reduce the numbers of visitors travelling by car who could take the option of using the park and ride service.