

Alternatives considered to Part 1 of the recommended investment plan

Alternative option	Description	SAVING vs recommended plan 1 June to 31 December (£000) 3% inflation applied to bus operator reimbursement rate Allowance made for continuation of free P&R for NHS and school staff
A	Pre-congestion charge P&R offer (In place from October 2022 to October 2025) Parking + return bus for 1 adult and up to 3 children: £4 Parking + return bus for 2 adults and up to 3 children: £5	905
Simplified “per car” offer (parking + return bus travel for up to five people travelling together)		
B	£3	193
C	£4	578
D	£5	964

Note: for all the above options, the “parking only” fee would remain £2.50 (unless varied in future by the city and county councils through changes to fees and charges).

Go Ahead have agreed to hold current reimbursement rates if free P&R continues until December 2026, but this is unusual as rates would normally be reviewed each year. Inflation at 3% has therefore been added to the reimbursement rate for all alternative options, which erodes some of the savings.

The savings also assume free P&R travel continues for NHS and school staff which further erodes the projected savings, albeit to a lesser extent than the added inflation.

If cabinet decides to substitute the Part 1 of the recommended investment plan with one of the alternative options (A) to (D) above, officers recommend the savings are allocated as shown below, with final allocations made by the Director for Environment and Highways under the powers delegated by cabinet at its September 2025 meeting.

- Additional active travel infrastructure – 25%
- Public transport infrastructure – 25%

ANNEX 3

- Additional bus fare discounts – 50%, including one or more of the following (subject to available funding):
 - Trial bus season ticket discounts
 - Under-19 bus fare discounts
 - Discounted group bus tickets
 - Expansion of concessionary bus pass scheme for people with disabilities to allow free travel before 9am