



**Winchester**  
City Council

**COUNCIL MEETING – 15 July 2005**

**Question under Council Procedure Rule 14**

**QUESTION 9**

From: Councillor Wright

To: The Portfolio Holder for Economy and Transport

“Can you please give the practical reason as to why the new Park and Ride bus contract calls for the use of larger busses than those used before. Can you also give the financial cost difference between using the two sizes of buses?”

**Reply**

“The capacity of the Bar End Park and Ride car parks was increased from 338 spaces to 783 spaces in early 2004. As a result, usage of the car parks and the Park and Ride buses has increased dramatically over the last 18 months, and during the morning and evening peak periods the existing buses are on occasions full with seating and standing passengers. With usage of the Park and Ride car parks likely to increase further over the next few months, Cabinet has agreed that larger single-deck buses with a higher passenger capacity should be specified within the next 5 years contract that will commence on 1 November 2005.

It is not possible to provide a precise difference between the likely contract prices for the two sizes of buses since there are many other factors that will increase the costs of the next bus contract. Salary costs in the bus industry and fuel costs have both increased by more than the rate of inflation, and the next contract will also require that the new buses are to Euro 4 standard to achieve the lowest possible emissions within the town centre.”