

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

**ECONOMY, SKILLS & TRANSPORT O&S COMMITTEE –**

**PUBLIC MEETING**

**2.00PM hours on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2017, Committee Room 2 – Action Notes**

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**Present:**

Councillor Zafar Iqbal (Chair)

Councillors Phil Davis, David Barrie, Zaker Choudhry, Diane Donaldson, Timothy Huxtable, Ken Wood, Josh Jones, John O’Shea and Sharon Thompson

**Also Present:**

Cllr Stewart Stacey, Cabinet Member Transport & Roads

Karl Randall, Constituency Senior Engineer

Ravinder Sahota, Local Engineering & Asset Maintenance Manager

Baseema Begum, Research & Policy Officer

Rose Kiely, Group O&S Manager

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**1. NOTICE OF RECORDING**

The Chairman advised the meeting to note that members of the press/public may record and take photographs.

**2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Cllrs Eva Phillips and Ziaul Islam and for lateness from Cllr Phil Davis.

**3. REQUEST FOR CALL-IN: PROPOSED OFF-STREET PARKING CHARGES – LOCAL CAR PARKS 2017-18**

(See document No 1)

Cllr Huxtable outlined the reasons for the call-in and made the following specific points:

- The decision was posted on 9<sup>th</sup> March however the accompanying report was not added to CMIS (Committee Management Information System) in line with City Council procedures.
- The budget proposals for on-street parking contained within the consultation stated that the annual increase would be an estimated 2% per annum. The Cabinet report however states a 5% increase. This is misleading as there are some examples contained within the appendix to the report showing a much higher increase in some cases.
- A severe and over and above inflation increase would discourage people from visiting shopping centres and therefore have an adverse effect on district centres.
- Those people still wishing to visit shopping centres are more likely to park on the road therefore increasing congestion with people not wanting to pay the increased charges.
- The report takes a very narrow view of disability as only blue badge holders are referenced. It should be noted that there is also an adverse effect on those with a disability (as defined under the Equalities Act) that don't meet the threshold for a blue badge.
- Questions were raised about the consultation carried out on the proposals. The proposals were shared with relevant BIDs but was there consultation with BIDs? Also was there consultation with effected wards and Councillors in those wards? Was there consultation with Sutton Coldfield Town Council as a democratically elected body? What were the responses from all these parties?
- The point was also made that the money raised is not revenue but must be reinvested in the service.

The Cabinet Member, Councillor Stewart Stacey responded:

- The proposed increase in charges is line with the Local Authority Traffic Orders Regulations 1996
- The proposed increase in charges has been shared with BIDs. They have not been consulted as there is no formal requirement to do so.
- There is no requirement for the City Council to consult externally. The requirement is for a statutory notice procedure after the decision has been made.
- The statutory process of the charges coming into effect will start following a notice period of 21 days prior to implementation.
- The increase equates to approximately 5% across all tariffs overall with the money raised being used to carry out duties under the various traffic acts.

Members of the Committee raised the following points:

- The Members of the Committee accepted that legally consultation was not required under the relevant regulations in this case but that there were lessons to be learned from this exercise.

- It was felt that as part of the work to be done on developing a strategy, the City Council should go beyond what is legally required, especially by taking account of the views of external partners.
- It would demonstrate good practice and aid the formulation of the strategy to consult all councillors, relevant Town Councils and BIDs even if the City Council is not currently legally required to do so.

The Cabinet Member and officers then left the room. Following a discussion amongst Committee members it was

**RESOLVED:-**

That the decision taken by the respective Cabinet Members and Lead Officer on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017 approving the introduction of revised parking charges for Local car parks, effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 that will support the Council's traffic management responsibilities should not be "called in".

That the Chair should write on behalf of the Committee to the Chair of the Corporate Resources & Governance Overview & Scrutiny Committee asking them to consider a piece of work reviewing the procedures in place that the City Council uses to consult with stakeholders.

**4. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

None

**5. AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS**

Agreed

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The meeting finished at 1520 hours.