

THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

20 January 2014

EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF CABINET HELD 4 DECEMBER 2013

REPORT OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER

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RECENT REFERENCES:

CAB2539 – Winchester District Car Parking Strategy – 4 December 2013

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report sets out an extract of the minutes of Cabinet held 4 December 2013, with regard to an item referred to The Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

RECOMMENDATION:

That The Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider and make any necessary decisions on the matters contained in the minute extract.

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Report of Democratic Services Manager

1. **CAR PARKING STRATEGY**

(Report CAB2539 refers)

Councillor Warwick introduced the Report and thanked all those that had contributed to the consultation on the draft Strategy. She stated that following approval of the Strategy, car parking charges would be reviewed early in 2014. In addition, the Strategy should be considered in conjunction with a number of other documents, such as the Cycling Strategy and the emerging Walking Strategy.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Weir addressed Cabinet as Chairman of the Winchester Town Forum Informal Group which had met to discuss the draft Strategy. She welcomed the inclusion of the reference to the Winchester Town Access Plan and residents' parking schemes. The importance of encouraging use of Park and Ride should be recognised further by the use of an effective car parking pricing differential. She emphasised that it was important to see the Strategy as a transitional plan and use the next five years to gather data to move forwards.

Mr J Beveridge (WinACC) spoke during public participation and welcomed many of the general principles of the Strategy. However, WinACC had four concerns:

- The Strategy ignored evidence that Winchester had more central car parking spaces than required and earlier policies to reduce the number of spaces provided in this area;
- It should not be assumed that removing central car parking had a negative effect on the economy as studies had found it could improve the pedestrian experience and shared space schemes could also prove beneficial eg in St Georges Street;
- The intention to enhance 'gateway' car parks was supported, but the Cattle Market car park should be used in preference to Gladstone Street, and Durngate car park should be promoted above Middle Brook Street car park;
- A stakeholder discussion should be held before the Strategy was finally approved.

Councillor Warwick noted comments made and emphasised that the Strategy had a difficult balancing act to achieve to try to meet the various competing demands. The Head of Major Projects advised that work with large employers was ongoing to move staff parking out of the city centre, in addition

to removing on-street parking areas which were previously being used by commuters. He stated that Durngate car park was already considered as an important gateway car park.

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons set out above and outlined in the Report.

RESOLVED:

1. That the responses to the consultation on the Council's document 'Towards a Winchester District Parking Strategy' be noted.
 2. That the Winchester Parking Strategy be approved and that authority to make any minor textual amendments and to publish the final Strategy be delegated to the Head of Major Projects in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Environment.
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