



RURAL, ECONOMIC & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

AD HOC MEETING

1<sup>ST</sup> December 2015

Present:

G.E Botterill, R. de Burle, L. Higgins, E. Hutchinson (Vice Chairman), J.T Orson (Chairman), J. B Rhodes, M. Sheldon, J. Simpson.

Observer

Councillor Wyatt

Chief Executive, Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods, Head of Central Services, Administrative Assistant for Communities and Neighbourhoods.

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R46. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Culley and Beaken.

R47. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

R48. STRATEGIC CAR PARK CHARGES AND DESIGNATION PROPOSALS

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods submitted a report to request that Members approve the proposed car parking tariff changes in Melton Borough Council's off street car parks in accordance with the Council's inflation policy for 2015/16 and the Car and Coach Parking Strategy (2015) as agreed at REEA on the 4<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods brought Members attention to para 3.4 which summarises the basis of the proposals.

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods stated that the proposals were to encourage the short stay and long stay car parks to be used appropriately.

The Financial and other resource implications at para 5.0 were outlined and members attention was drawn to Appendix A reviewing the current charging mechanisms and Appendix B which outlined proposed charges.

Councillor Rhodes entered the meeting

Discussion took place about charges incentivising people to park in car parks appropriate to their length of stay.

A member expressed their disappointment that the proposals had not been consulted on prior to this meeting. A member also asked the cost of the added investments such as RinGo and asked for clarity about the free 20 minutes of car parking.

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods and the Head of Central Services clarified that the proposals in this report support the strategy, which was approved at the last meeting and was developed with consultation with partners and stakeholders, including the BID. The strategy clearly outlined the proposals included in this paper

In regards to new initiatives, these will form part of the delivery plan requested by members and ideas such as RinGo will be brought to the committee separately backed up with appropriate business cases.

The Head of Communities & Neighbourhoods also advised members that subject to members decision today, in line with the appropriate legislation there would be further consultation on the proposed price tariff's.

The Head of Central Services outlined that in 2015/15 the car parks generated £591K income and £294K revenue was spent. On top of these revenue costs various capital costs are incurred for improvements.

A member proposed that the meeting be adjourned due to another committee meeting starting at 6:30pm and further discussion being needed to come to a resolution.

This proposal was seconded and voted on.

1 Member abstained from the vote.

**RESOLVED** that the meeting be adjourned and a new date be set to discuss this item.

The meeting that started at 6:00pm finished at 6:32pm.

## RE-CONVENED AD HOC MEETING

15th December 2015

### Present:

R. de Burle, L. Higgins, E. Hutchinson (Vice Chairman), J.T Orson (Chairman), J. B Rhodes, M. Sheldon.

### Substitute

Councillor Wyatt (sub for Councillor J Simpson)

Strategic Director (CAM), Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods,  
Central Services Manager

#### R49. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Beaken, Botterill and Councillor Simpson.

#### R50. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Orson and Councillor Rhodes declared a personal and non-pecuniary interest in any item relating to the County Council be virtue of them being County Councillors.

#### R51. STRATEGIC CAR PARK CHARGES AND DESIGNATION PROPOSALS

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods summarised the previous ad hoc meeting which was adjourned and advised members of the stage that they had reached at the time of the adjournment.

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods also advised that this meeting's minutes would be incorporated into the previous ad hoc meeting to form 1 set of minutes.

The report had previously been presented and the links to the approved Car & Coach Parking Strategy were highlighted in the presentation of the report.

The recommendations and proposals members were asked to consider were taken one at a time and the rationale and purpose outlined.

At the time of the adjournment members were asking officers for clarity in some areas.

The Chair reminded members of the options available and outlined the various proposals for the car parks, both in terms of pricing but also changes in designation.

A member asked if the financial implications within the report had been subject to any modelling. The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods advised that each option has gone through a modelling exercise and was based on assumed customer behaviour in response to the proposed changes and levels of enforcement.

A member commented that they were not able to support any price increase or changes and felt that the car parks are working well at the moment, are often full and we should not change anything.

In regards to using RPI, a member suggested that if we were using just RPI the majority of costs would be higher than proposed in Option 1, so it was some comfort that we were not just raising the charges, however, any extra income must be reinvested into this area.

The Central Services Manager advised that there is an approximate £1M Capital programme in regards to improvements for the car park.

Discussion took place about the insufficient amount of public consultation that had been carried out on this subject and it was suggested that consultation should take place prior to any approval of the proposals.

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods advised that subject to member's decision, there will be formal consultation as part of the changes to the Car Parking Orders and any contentious comments will be brought back to this committee to consider.

Members felt further consultation needs to occur and suggested using the Melton Mail and the Council's website for consultation. It was agreed that comments be brought back to this committee regardless of the contentious nature of the comments.

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods agreed that any proposal approved by members will include consultation via the Melton mail and the Council's website.

The Chair commented that following the consultation a report will be brought back to this committee.

A member commented that the Burton Street car park is very attractive to commuters hence why it may be being used currently as a long stay car park. It was also stated that when compared to the station car park the Burton Street car park proposed charges are cheaper.

A presentation which showed the usage of car parks was given by the Strategic Director.

Discussion took place regarding the annual tickets and how the council might refund a season ticket costs should circumstances change and officers were asked to explore a 'refund' facility for long term season tickets.

A member proposed that Burton Street car park be split into 2, so that it offered both long stay and short stay provision and suggested that the car park closest to the town be designated as short stay and the area nearer the council offices remain as long stay.

**RESOLVED** that

- (a) The proposed car park tariff changes for 2016/17 for various off street car parks in Melton Mowbray as set out in Appendix B Option1 is approved
- (b) The proposed re-designation of Burton Street Car Park to a short stay car park is approved, however, only the area near the town (split by Mucky lane) and the remainder remain as long stay
- (c) The current 1 hour tariff current payable at the Mill Street Car Park is removed to align itself with other long stay car park tariffs.
- (d) The changes and proposed tariff increases as stated in (a), (b) and (c) above are implemented in line with the powers and duties delegated to the Head of Communities & Neighbourhoods (outlined in section 6) in order to proceed with the implementation as required.
- (e) A further report is brought back to this committee following consultation through the Melton Mail, the Council's website and the formal consultation as part of recommendation D.

Chairman