

Title of Report:	Item Called-in following an Executive Decision – Parking review amendment 15: On-street parking (Newbury)
Report to be considered by:	Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission
Date of Meeting:	21 January 2014
Forward Plan Ref:	ID2715

Purpose of Report: To allow a review of the decision to introduce an on-street charging scheme in Newbury

Recommended Action: That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission reviews the decision.

Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission Chairman	
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Supporting Information

1. Executive Decision

- 1.1 On 28 November 2013 the Executive Member for Highways received a report (ID2715) outlining the responses received during the statutory consultation on the proposal to introduce on-street charging on various roads within Newbury and to seek approval of officer recommendations.
- 1.2 The Executive Member for Highways approved the following recommendations:
- (1) That the proposed on-street charging in Newbury be approved and introduced as advertised with effect from the start of the 2014/15 financial year.
 - (2) That the parking scheme be monitored so that any parking displacement can be addressed as part of a future review.
 - (3) That the respondents to the statutory consultation be informed accordingly.

2. Call-In of the Decision

- 2.1 In accordance with the Council's Constitution, five Elected Members (Councillors David Allen, Jeff Brooks, Roger Hunneman, Tony Vickers and Keith Woodhams) called in the Individual Decision (ID2715) on the basis that:
- (1) The views of local residents, shoppers and traders have been ignored (see the 1,719 signature petition, and responses from the Newbury BID, Newbury Town Council and those of dozens of local residents, shoppers, and business people).
 - (2) This does nothing to support the economy of Newbury, and will dissuade shoppers from coming into the town.
 - (3) This will cause a displacement of car parking into residential areas
 - (4) The reasons for introducing the charge have been changed during the course of the consultation; - during and after the informal consultation the Council stated that it intended to generate revenue income as part of the overall cost savings review. The Council has now backtracked from this and said all the money generated by on street parking charges will be used for road safety and car parking. This seems disingenuous when the council simultaneously plans to cut the road safety budget by £96,000 and plans to increase car parking charges on Sundays. If the income from on-street parking was intended to enhance the funding in these areas, then why are the services being cut?
 - (5) Despite the overwhelming majority of respondents to both consultations being against the proposals, the Council has actually *increased* the number of 'paid for' on street parking bays – in some streets by over 50%. Twenty three bays were removed from the charging structure, but fifty

seven new ones were added after the first consultation process. What was the reason for this?

2.2 The alternative proposed by those calling in the decision is for the maintenance of the status quo or the extension of the limited waiting time to further areas if necessary to deter commuters and free up short term parking for shoppers. The calling members are also of the view that the decision is contrary to the policy framework for the following reasons

(1) The introduction of charging for on-street parking in Newbury contradicts the Council Strategy 2013-2017 on the following points:

- (a) The charging will not assist with 'Promoting and acting in the interests of the communities, people and businesses of the district' which is one of the core purposes of the council.
- (b) The charging will also not assist with 'Promoting a vibrant district' one of the Council's priorities, in which we should be 'promoting the district to businesses and becoming more business friendly'
- (c) The on street parking charges also contravene the Council's main principle, that of 'Putting people first...means looking at how our services are designed and operated from the perspective of those who use them'
- (d) Finally, the decision to go ahead with the charges following overwhelming public opposition does not chime with this excerpt from the strategy: 'We need to ensure that we continue to listen to local people in deciding how our services should be delivered in the future and that they feel able to contribute to the decisions that affect them'.

(2) Furthermore there is no mention of implementing on street parking charges in Newbury in the Local Transport Plan for West Berkshire 2011-2026, implementation plan dated December 2011, as published on the WBC website.

3. Role of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission

3.1 The role of the Overview and Scrutiny and Management Commission is to review the decision and determine whether it concurs with the original decision (in which case it will take immediate effect) or refer it back to the Executive or Individual Portfolio Holder for further consideration.

3.2 If the Commission is of the opinion, having taken advice from the Council's Monitoring Officer or Section 151 Officer that a decision is outside the Budget and Policy Framework approved by the Council, the Commission may refer the decision to the Council. The Council may concur with the decision (in which case it will take immediate effect) or refer it back to the Executive or Individual Portfolio Holder for further consideration.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 It is recommended that Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission review the decision made by the Executive.

Appendices

Appendix A – Parking review amendment 15: On-street parking (Newbury) report (ID2743)