

Reconsideration of Parking Review Amendment Order No 37 (Lower Way in Thatcham) (AU74)

Following scrutiny review of called-in decision

Committee considering report:	Individual Executive Member Decisions
Date of Committee:	19 June 2026
Resources and Place Scrutiny Chairman:	Councillor Carolyne Culver
Report Author:	Stephen Chard
Forward Plan Ref:	ID4628

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To inform the Executive Member of the outcome of the scrutiny review of this called-in decision.
- 1.2 This is provided in accordance with Part 6.9, Paragraph 17 of the Council's Constitution.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 For the Executive Member to be informed of the outcome of the scrutiny review of this called-in decision. The Scrutiny Committee resolved to refer the decision back to the decision maker (Executive Member via Individual Decision) for reconsideration.
- 2.2 For the Executive Member to reconsider the decision in relation to Lower Way in Thatcham.

3 Supporting Information

Background

- 3.1 The Individual Decision on 27 March 2026 was to inform the Executive Member for Environment and Highways of the responses received during the statutory consultation for Parking Review Amendment 37 on the review and introduction of waiting restrictions within a number of West Berkshire's Wards and to seek approval of officer recommendations. The following proposals were approved:

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- (a) The revisions and omissions recommended to the proposed parking scheme as detailed in section 6.2 of this report be approved which relate to East Lane and Hazeldene in Chieveley and Lower Way and Enterprise Way in Thatcham.
 - (b) The remaining proposed restrictions at Aldermaston, Beenham, Greenham, Hungerford, Newbury, Padworth, Purley-on-Thames, Stratfield Mortimer, Thatcham, Theale and Tilehurst be introduced as advertised.
 - (c) The respondents to the statutory consultation be informed accordingly.
 - (d) The parking scheme be monitored so that any parking displacement can be addressed as part of a future parking review.
- 3.2 On 9 April 2026, Councillors Owen Jeffery, Tony Vickers, Jeremy Cottam, Martin Colston and Stephanie Steevenson put the Monitoring Officer on notice that they wished to call in the decision in relation to Lower Way in Thatcham (AU74) – *the proposal to make the temporary No Waiting At Any Time restriction permanent be omitted from the final scheme and the yellow lines currently on site be removed*. They stated:

We object to the removal of the double yellow lines at Lower Way (Plan AU74) – Traffic Regulation Order Amendment No. 37, ID4628.

Despite the Council's efforts, cyclists continue to use the south-side path. If parking is reintroduced, cyclists are likely to use the south pavement to pass parked vehicles rather than safely overtaking on the road.

Limited off-street parking is a common issue on main roads. And the removal of the yellow lines is likely to cause traffic congestion, as westbound traffic joining along Lower Way from the Moors Roundabout will have to navigate parked vehicles, including at peak times.

There is no evidence that safety has worsened since the introduction of double yellow lines, unless supported by data showing increased incidents. Parked vehicles should not be used as a traffic-calming measure. In fact, the restrictions have improved traffic flow along this section of Lower Way.

Please note, we do not object to any of the other plans included within this Order.

- 3.3 The call-in Members proposed to make the temporary No Waiting At Any Time restriction and the associated yellow lines permanent and for this to be included in the final scheme.

Scrutiny Review

- 3.4 The Resources and Place Scrutiny Committee considered the call-in request at its meeting on 12 May 2026. This took the form of:
- An overview of this particular aspect of the Individual Decision from the Executive Member for Environment and Highways, Councillor Stuart Gourley. It was explained that the views of local residents were close to being evenly balanced on this matter. The decision to remove the temporary No Waiting At Any Time

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restriction and yellow lines currently on site was based on the officer recommendation.

- An explanation of the reasons for the call-in from the call-in Members and their proposed alternative course of action as outlined in paragraph 3.3 of this report.
- Commentary from Councillor Justin Pemberton, one of the local Ward Members. Councillor Pemberton reflected that the feedback from local residents was finely balanced.
- A question and answer session, and debate on the matter.

3.5 At the conclusion of the debate, the Scrutiny Committee resolved to refer the decision back to the decision maker (Executive Member via Individual Decision) for reconsideration.

4 Appendices

Appendix A – Parking Review Amendment 37 (Individual Decision Report and Appendices considered at Individual Decision on 27 March 2026).

Background Papers:

Report and appendices provided to the Resources and Place Scrutiny Committee on 12 May 2026.

Subject to Call-In:

Yes: No:

Considered or reviewed by Scrutiny Committee or associated Committees, Task Groups within preceding six months