

Item Called-in following an Executive Decision

Title of Report:	Petition for removal of proposed parking charges at Burdwood Centre car park, Thatcham
Report to be considered by:	Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission
Date of Meeting:	11 December 2012
Forward Plan Ref:	ID2518

Purpose of Report: To allow a review of the decision to implement revised parking charges at Burdwood Centre car park, Thatcham.

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

Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission Chairman	
Name & Telephone No.:	Councillor Brian Bedwell – Tel (0118) 9420196
E-mail Address:	bbedwell@westberks.gov.uk

Portfolio Member Details	
Name & Telephone No.:	Councillor Keith Chopping - Tel (0118) 983 2057
E-mail Address:	kchopping@westberks.gov.uk

Contact Officer Details	
Name:	Elaine Walker
Job Title:	Principal Policy Officer
Tel. No.:	01635 519441
E-mail Address:	ewalker@westberks.gov.uk

Supporting Information

1. Individual Decision

- 1.1 The Petition for removal of proposed parking charges at Burdwood Centre car park, Thatcham was presented for consideration by Individual Decision on 8 November 2012. Officers recommended that the proposed parking charges be amended and the new charges implemented.

2. Call-In of the Decision

- 2.1 In accordance with the Council's Constitution, five Elected Members (Councillors Jeff Brooks, David Rendel, Keith Woodhams, Tony Vickers and Roger Hunneman called in the Individual Decision (ID2518) on the basis that:
- (1) The predicted income is negligible and is at risk in any event.
 - (2) The costs of purchasing and installing a ticketing machine, and collecting the money from the machine and servicing it are not mentioned in the report.
 - (3) This will cause a displacement of car parking to parking spaces that are provided free to support local retailers.
 - (4) There will be damage to the local retail trade.
 - (5) There is concern over the management of the two hour free period; some members of the public may not realise they have to obtain a ticket to park for free for the first two hours.

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 decision (in which case it will take immediate effect) or refer it back to the Executive Member for Highways for further consideration.

4. Further Correspondence

- 4.1 On 15 November 2012, a request for information was received from Councillor Richard Crumly relating to the disclosure of economic information about the Burdwood car parks in Thatcham (Appendix F). The requested information was as follows:
- (1) A breakdown of the current cost of repair and maintenance of the Burdwood car parks;
 - (2) Clear identification of which are owned by the Council and which are not;
 - (3) The capital cost of setting up the project;
 - (4) A detailed breakdown of the likely income;

- (5) A breakdown of the latest thinking on exempt periods and exempt individuals, i.e. two hours and all surgery personnel;
 - (6) A detailed breakdown of the likely income to be generated, bearing in mind the free periods.
- 4.2 To aid the Commission's debate, the response to this request for information is provided at Appendix G, which also sets out officers' response to the reasons cited for the call-in.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 It is recommended that Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission consider the information provided in relation to Councillor Crumly's request, and review the decision to agree the implementation of amended parking charges at Burdwood Centre car park.

Appendices

Appendix A – Letter calling in ID2518

Appendix B – Individual Decision Report - Petition for removal of proposed parking charges at Burdwood Centre car park, Thatcham including equality impact assessment.

Appendix C – Letter from Burdwood Surgery

Appendix D – Letter from Thatcham Town Council

Appendix E – Plan of Burdwood Centre car park

Appendix F – Letter from Councillor Crumly

Appendix G – Officers Response to the Fol request