

Enterprise and Well Being Scrutiny Committee

5 June 2014

Update on Implementation of Parking Policy

The Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee identified car parking as a review area in 2012 and subsequently established a Project Group. The review focused on the quality of Council's car parking provision and identified the changes that were required to improve parking facilities in the town centre in support of the visitor economy.

At its meeting on 14 February 2013 the Scrutiny Committee approved a number of recommendations for consideration by Cabinet:

- That the barrier system of parking control, which gives change, should be extended to include other car parks.
- That improvements be implemented for the New Beetwell Street MSCP to bring the facility up to a standard equivalent to that at Vicar Lane.
- That improvements to signage across the town centre and at the entry points to off-street car parks be undertaken.

A subsequent report was taken to Cabinet on 5 March 2013 which reviewed the Council's parking policy and approved a medium-term parking strategy until March 2016. The report contained details of the work of the Project Group and Scrutiny's recommendations. As a result the following recommendations were approved:

- Beetwell Street multi-storey car park should introduce a new pay on foot system which would have improved, easy to use payment facilities. In addition the car park would be decorated to brighten the interior of the building.
- Funding for the design of a parking guidance system was also approved but no funding was allocated for the system itself.

The overall cost of these improvements was estimated to be £195,000.

These decisions were on the understanding that the future of the Saltergate multi-storey car park would be addressed as part of the Northern Gateway Scheme.

A number of events, however, have subsequently taken place since which have impacted on the introduction of these recommendations:

- The Regeneration service subsequently underwent a staffing restructure which has resulted in a change in the staffing responsibilities within the parking service. This has caused a delay in the implementation of the recommendations.
- The Northern Gateway Scheme is under review and it is unlikely that Saltergate multi-storey car park will be demolished and replaced with a surface/underground car park as part of the revised scheme. The need for repair work and upgrading of the parking system at Saltergate may therefore become a greater priority for the Council and this has resulted in a delay to the start of any

improvement work to Beetwell Street multi-storey car park. It is anticipated that Members will have a better understanding of the revised plans for the Northern Gateway site in July 2014 and the impact they will have on Saltergate multi-storey car park. A decision can then be made on what car park improvement works will be given priority.

- Within the Cabinet report a business case was put forward to fund the agreed work. It was identified that the necessary funding could come from both the service's repair and replacement fund and the Invest to Save reserve. A shortfall was, however, identified but it was anticipated that this would be met from increased ticket sales. Unfortunately ticket income in all Council car parks has declined in recent years and the Council's current financial situation means that the business case needs to be reviewed.

The Council's medium-term parking strategy still remains to make all Council car parks competitively priced, accessible and consumer friendly, which reflects Scrutiny's recommendations. Once the future of Saltergate car park is known, the business case for the funding required will be reviewed and progress on implementing improvements to the service can start.

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