

**MINUTES OF THE CABINET
MONDAY, 13 DECEMBER 2010**

Councillors *Kober (Chair), *Reith (Vice-Chair), *Bevan, *Canver, *Dogus, *Goldberg, *Mallett and *Vanier

*Present

Also Present: Councillors Gorrie and Weber

MINUTE NO.	SUBJECT/DECISION	ACTION BY
CAB84.	<p>DECISION OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON 8 DECEMBER 2010 REGARDING MINUTE CAB.75 - PARKING CHARGES REPORT (Reference from Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Agenda Item 3)</p> <p>We noted that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 8 December 2010 on consideration of a Call In of our decision of 16 November 2010 vide Minute CAB.75 relating to the Parking Charges Report had resolved as follows –</p> <p>‘That the decision of the Cabinet of 16 November 2010 – CAB.75 Parking Charges Report – be referred back to the Cabinet for reconsideration and that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A transparent equalities and economic impact assessment be undertaken, in consultation with local traders, which should include comparisons with other London Boroughs and the effect of similar rises in pay and display charges on their local shops, and • The banding structure be reconsidered in order to address the concerns raised by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, particularly that Green Lanes, Muswell Hill and Crouch End were each unique town centres and should be considered as such and that such a steep rise in banding levels should be made in increments’. <p>We also noted that Part Four Section H (Call In Procedure Rules) Paragraph 10 (b) of the Constitution required that when the Overview and Scrutiny Committee decided to refer a decision back to a decision maker then the decision taker had 5 working days to reconsider the decision before taking a final decision.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the reference be noted.</p>	
CAB85.	<p>PARKING CHARGES REPORT - RESPONSE TO DECISION OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Report of the Director of Urban Environment – Agenda Item 4)</p> <p>We noted that the report responded to the points raised by the Overview</p>	

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and Scrutiny Committee in relation to the call in of our decision on the Parking Charges Report.

We also received verbal representations made to us by Mr. Freeman of Crouch End Traders that Crouch End Town Centre had a number of independent shops with unique characters and many relied on passing trade as well as local footfall. Increasing parking charges to the extent proposed risked impacting on the character of the Town Centre and harm, to a greater extent the independents shops and businesses. Shoppers would instead use supermarkets which offered free parking rather than stopping and paying to park which would lead in turn to less trade for local shops and businesses with a possible knock on effect on local employment. He asked that an economic assessment be carried out in consultation with local traders in relation to the proposed increase in the pay and display charges. Mr. Freeman having then answered questions put to him by Members, our Chair thanked him for his attendance.

Verbal representations were also made by Mr. Mehmet of the Green Lanes Traders Association who expressed particular concern about the scale of the parking charge increase proposed on Green Lanes when considered in relation to the amount spent there by many shoppers or diners using the many restaurants there and the impact this might have on visitor numbers. Because of the bus lanes and parking restrictions which operated there was little parking space available on Green Lanes for much of the time and the residential roads off it became very congested. Mr. Mehmet having then answered questions put to him by Members, our Chair thanked him too for his attendance.

At the invitation of our Chair Councillor Weber then addressed our meeting and indicated that while she welcomed the proposed consultation with traders she was concerned that the views of shoppers too should be canvassed and taken into account so that the character of the Town Centres were not affected and certain types of shop lost. In this respect we noted that the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods would be meeting with officers to discuss the form that the economic impact assessment should take.

Councillor Gorrie expressed the view that the impact assessment should be fact based and needed to be conducted separately from the statutory consultation exercise. Reference was made to the Parking Places Reserve Account and in particular to the level of total expenditure and he sought clarification of whether these costs could be reduced so as to increase the operating surplus by the same amount (£900,000) as would be generated by the proposed increases in parking charges now proposed. Clarification was also sought of the ratio of the income generated by pay and display/meters of £1.8 million in 2009/10 to the sales revenue of the three Town Centres (Crouch End/Green Lanes/Muswell Hill).

We were informed that the operating budget for the parking service was to be re-configured for the final quarter of the current financial year to

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increase efficiency and drive down costs. However, there remained a need to generate additional revenue. The Council had until recently been preparing a Local Economic Assessment and although this work was no longer on-going it would provide some information about the three Town Centres. A statutory consultation process was to be carried out on implementing the proposed changes but a separate informal assessment would take a minimum of 21 days to carry out and would mean that the proposed increase in charges could not be implemented from 1 April.

The Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods responded and indicated that the resolutions of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee concerning the impact assessment and banding structure having been noted and considered it was recommended that the in principle agreement to the charges agreed at our meeting on 16 November and to the consequent timetable for implementation be re-affirmed subject to the amendments set out below. We noted that equality impact assessments would be undertaken in regard to pay and display increases and banding changes and that one was already being undertaken in relation to parking permit increases. The former would be considered when the report came back to us and the latter considered by the Director of Urban Environment and the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods when exercising the delegated authority.

In agreeing the response to the resolutions of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee it was confirmed that the agreed proposals for increases in charges were aimed at producing equity between different categories of service users, between parking permit users and the recipients of Parking Control Notices and were set in pursuance of the Council's parking and traffic policies. Also, that it was agreed that the annual review of parking charges proposed be undertaken having regard to the relevant parking and traffic policies and considerations.

RESOLVED

1. That the in principle decision taken at our meeting on 16 November to approve the recommended charges and the consequent timetable for implementation be re-affirmed.
2. That authority to make final decisions on the increase in the charges for parking permits and the introduction of new permits be delegated to the Director of Urban Environment in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods.
3. That in relation to pay and display charges a further assessment of the impact that increases could have on local shops be carried out as an additional part of the forthcoming statutory notification exercise with local traders having the opportunity to offer views on the proposed increase and change to banding in Green Lanes, Muswell Hill and Crouch End as part of this process and that a comparison with other London Boroughs be included as part of the exercise.

DUE

DUE

DUE

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	4. That a report on the feedback from the statutory notification process and the findings of the additional impact assessment be presented back to our meeting on 22 March 2011 to enable a decision to be taken on whether or not to implement the recommended increase in charges.	DUE
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The meeting ended at 20.30 hours.

CLAIRE KOBER
Chair