

MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, 13 FEBRUARY 2007

Councillors Councillors Bull (Chair), Cooke (Vice-Chair), Bevan, Jones, Winskill and Bloch (substituting for Newton) and Butcher (substituting for Davies)

Also Present: Indu Shukla
 REJCC rep (non-voting)

MINUTE NO.	SUBJECT/DECISION
OSCO130.	WEBCASTING The meeting was webcast on the internet.
OSCO131.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Davies, who was substituted for by Councillor Butcher. Councillor Newton, who was the chief signatory of the call-in, was substituted for on the committee by Councillor Bloch.
OSCO132.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST There were no such declarations.
OSCO133.	URGENT BUSINESS There was no such business.
OSCO134.	CALL-IN OF THE EXECUTIVE DECISION RELATING TO REVIEW OF PARKING FEES AND CHARGES Councillor Newton outlined the reasons why the decision taken by the Executive on 23 January 2007, review of parking fees and charges, had been called-in. These reasons were: - That it was unacceptable that the Council had not proposed to fully consult local residents before proceeding to statutory consultation. - That the Council had brought disrepute onto its existing consultations on controlled parking owing to the different regime of charges recently proposed to residents. - That the call-in signatories believed that the report agreed by the Executive contained factual errors - That the proposed banding scheme would create confusion and limit environmental benefits

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- And that the charges would fall only on certain parts of the borough

The Councillor further drew attention to favourable consultation on similar schemes which had taken place in Richmond and Camden. Other factors prompting the call-in were the disparity between Haringey's proposed four-band system and the DVLA-approved seven-band system, and the significant budget implications which would scheme entailed. The Councillor stated his commitment in principle to green taxes, but stated that his principled objection lay in both the proposed format of the scheme and what was seen as a lack of adequate consultation.

The Legal Service representative stated that the decision was within the policy framework, and thus the call-in was valid. He further stated that the statutory consultation as proposed would meet legal requirements. Although the course of action proposed by those calling the decision in was to refer it to Full Council, it was noted that the Executive was the only committee which could take the decision, and Full Council would be obligated to refer it back should this outcome occur.

The Executive Member for Environment responded to the points made by Councillor Newton. He stated that the review of parking charges had been in the public domain, through the Local Implementation Plan (LIP), and that the review had been identified in the Council's Forward Plan. It was also stated during the recent CPZ consultation that a review of parking fees and charges was to take place. The banding structure had been simplified from that used by the DVLA in order to facilitate simplicity. The Executive Member further stated that those in the lowest brackets would typically see a small £5 increase in their parking permits.

Member noted that the response to the proposal in the LIP had been minimal and requested an approach which engaged thoroughly with local residents. Concern was raised that in proceeding with statutory consultation, the scheme would lack the resident acceptance and understanding that a longer period of consultation would allow. Despite this, some Members were in favour of implementing the decision as planned, citing the relative urgency of the climate change agenda.

Members raised concerns over the lack of evidence that the proposal would have a significant effect on reducing CO2 emissions. The Executive Member assured Members that, in conjunction with the Mayor of London's Air Quality Team, a policy to measure the efficacy of the proposal over the first eighteen months of its implementation had been established.

Members questioned whether the new policy was financially motivated; the Executive Member assured them that the total

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projected increased revenue figure (£507,000) was not significant enough to be the motivating factor in the proposed change of policy. Members were assured that these additional funds would be ring-fenced for spending on transport and green projects.

Following a discussion and a number of points of clarification given by officers to Member concerns, Councillor Winskill MOVED a MOTION that the decision TEX148: Review of Parking Fees and Charges be referred back to the decision taker, that being the Executive, with the request that a reworked review of parking fees and charges scheme contain a schedule of community engagement, and that the scheme be revenue neutral. On there being three votes in favour (Councillor Winskill, Bloch and Butcher) and four against (Councillors Bull, Cooke, Bevan and Jones), the MOTION fell.

Councillor Bevan then MOVED a MOTION that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee should take no further action regarding the decision TEX148: Review of Parking Fees and Charges. On there being three votes in favour (Councillors Cooke, Jones and Bevan) and four against (Councillors Bull, Winskill, Bloch and Butcher), the MOTION fell.

Councill Bull then MOVED a MOTION that the decision TEX148: Review of Parking Fees and Charges, be referred back to the decision maker, this being the Executive, with the recommendations that the proposed consultation period for the Parking Fees and Charges be increased from three to six weeks, and that the Executive take account of concerns voiced by Members of the committee over the consultation process, and ensure that a full consultation strategy be put in place. On there being five votes in favour (Councillors Bull, Cooke, Winskill, Bloch and Butcher) and two votes against (Councillors Bevan and Jones), the MOTION was carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That the decision TEX148: Review of Parking Fees and Charges, be referred back to the decision maker, this being the Executive to reconsider the decision within five working days (this being the meeting of 20/2/07).
2. That the committee recommend to the Executive that the proposed consultation period for the Parking Fees and Charges be increased from three to six weeks.
3. That the Executive take account of concerns voiced by Members of the committee over the consultation process, and ensure that a revised consultation strategy is put in place.

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COUNCILLOR GIDEON BULL

Chair