

**CAR PARKING STRATEGY – DRAFT ACTION PLAN
(Report by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Support))**

1. INTRODUCTION

At its meeting held on 9th October 2007, the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Support) considered a report by the Head of Planning Services regarding the development of a Car Parking Strategy and Action Plan based on the conclusions drawn by the Members of the Car Parking Working Group.

- 1.2 The conclusions of the Working Group were presented to the Scrutiny Panel, with the help of a power point presentation, by the Executive Councillor for Planning Strategy, Environment and Transport, Councillor P L E Bucknell and Mr S Ingram, Head of Planning Services. Each responded to a number of questions/issues raised by the Panel during discussion.

2. VIEWS OF THE PANEL

- 2.1 Having reviewed, in detail, the content of the draft action plan and whilst appreciative of the work undertaken by the Working Group thus far, the Panel was not satisfied that the Working Group had provided sufficient evidence to support their conclusions in a number of significant areas and that fundamental issues had not been adequately addressed in the draft action plan.

- 2.2 To seek to gain a better understanding of the recommendations made by the Working Group and to have confidence that the proposed way forward would be of benefit to the market towns, the Panel requested the Cabinet to invite the Working Group to reconsider and undertake further investigative work on the following matters –

- ◆ The offer of incentives sufficient to motivate drivers to purchase vehicles with green low vehicle emission rates ie. 100% discounts for a narrower group of vehicles available to all users (not just season ticket/residents);
- ◆ That the time related charge of approximately 9 hours be extended to at least 10 or 11 hours which should still be of sufficient length to deter rail commuters;
- ◆ That it be made clear where the surplus income generated by increased parking charges would be spent, given the target within the existing strategy to use this to encourage 'integrated, sustainable and accessible ' transport;
- ◆ That the long and medium term opportunities offered by the new guided bus be investigated ie. the possibility of a park and ride at Huntingdon and the benefits that might accrue from the award of grant to Cambridgeshire County Council from the Transport Innovation Fund;

- ◆ How the overspill of car parking in the residential roads of Huntingdon will be managed following the imposition of charges in the Riverside and Other Car Parks;
- ◆ The suggestion in Option 1 that residents car parking permits in town centres should be priced at £40 – is this charge sufficient to deter car ownership and to encourage residents to consider whether it is necessary to have a car when living in a town centre location and to use other forms of transport; and
- ◆ How can a charge for long-stay car parking in the Riverside Car Park, Huntingdon be justified when no charge is recommended for the Riverside Park in St. Neots.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Cabinet is requested to recommend that the Members Car Parking Working Group re-convene to consider in greater detail, the issues highlighted in paragraph 2.2 above prior to the approval of the draft action plan and commencement of public consultation.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Minutes of the meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Service Support) held on 9th October 2007
Car Parking Strategy: Draft Action Plan – Report by the Head of Planning Services

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