

CABINET

Date 16 February 2015

Present:

Mayor Dorothy Thornhill	(Strategic partnerships/ external relationships and community safety)
Cllr Crout	(Community & Customer Services Portfolio Holder)
Cllr Johnson	(Portfolio Holder for Housing)
Cllr Sharpe	(Regeneration & Development Portfolio Holder)
Cllr Scudder	(Deputy Mayor and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Strategy and Client Services)
Cllr Watkin	(Portfolio Holder for Democracy and Governance and Shared Services)

Also present:

Councillor Nigel Bell (Labour) for Minute Numbers 57 to 60
Councillor Karen Collett (Chair of Controlled Parking Zones Policies
Task Group)

Officers:

Managing Director
Director of Finance
Head of Regeneration and Development for Minute Numbers 53
to 56 and 58 to 60
Legal and Democratic Section Head
Committee and Scrutiny Support Officer (RW)

58. CONTROLLED PARKING ZONES POLICIES

Cabinet received a report of the Controlled Parking Zones (CPZ) Policies Task Group. Councillor Collett, Chair of the Task Group, attended the meeting. The Task Group had been established following a scrutiny proposal from the Head of Regeneration and Development. The proposal related to a review of the operational aspects of policies relating to the CPZ.

Councillor Sharpe introduced this item and explained that street parking had become problematical for residents who had then raised this issue with councillors. Similar problems had been identified by officers and it had been decided that it would be wise to establish a task group to consider these matters.

Councillor Collett advised that the group had been asked to look at current parking policies in order to determine whether they were fit for purpose. Evidence and opinions were gathered from councillors who had CPZs sited in their wards, from the results of the 2013 survey of residents and from parking service officers. The conclusions and recommendations were summarised in the report as included in the agenda.

Councillor Collett explained salient points in the report and the recommendations.

Points raised at the meeting by members of the Cabinet:

Funerals:

Although hearses and limousines were exempt from parking restrictions there was no exemption for other mourners. It had been agreed that, whilst the policy would remain unchanged, the parking service would provide maps indicating parking facilities in the vicinity of churches and places of worship to be distributed to attendees at funeral services.

The Chair suggested that it would not be possible to ascertain whether parked cars were those of mourners or of other drivers taking advantage of the exemptions.

Councillor Collett agreed with this view and further noted that exemptions for all attendees would impact on nearby residents and businesses.

Doctor and Health Visitor Permits:

The Chair agreed that the needs of visiting medical personnel must be facilitated but that the vouchers should be used only in the course of health-related visits; the rules regarding this issue needed strengthening.

The Chair felt that, in general, the recommendations would strengthen the powers of the parking service. She asked, however, for more time to look at certain specifics in order to fine-tune the policies thus ensuring that they were sufficiently robust and fit for purpose.

Replying to the Legal and Democratic Services Section Head, the Chair advised that it would not be wise to accept all recommendations at the present time but that small changes might need to be made following further consideration and the recommendations presented at a subsequent meeting.

Councillor Collett expressed her thanks to the Task Group Members, the Transport and Infrastructure Section Head and Parking Service and Scrutiny officers. She added that she hoped the councillors had found the topic interesting and worthwhile.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet agrees:

that the recommendations be reviewed and the report to be re-presented to Cabinet at a later date.