

## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Overview and Scrutiny Committee **DATE:** 11<sup>th</sup> November 2014

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**WARDS:** All

### **PART I** **FOR COMMENT & DECISION**

#### **TOWN CENTRE CAR PARKING TASK AND FINISH GROUP – TERMS OF REFERENCE**

##### 1. **Purpose of Report**

For the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review and approve the final version of the terms of reference for the Town Centre Car Parking Task and Finish Group.

##### 2. **Recommendations/Proposed Action**

That the Committee:

- 1) review the proposed terms of reference for the Task and Finish Group; and
- 2) agree the final version of the terms of reference under which the Task and Finish Group will operate.

##### 3. **Joint Slough Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

- **Economy and Skills**
- **Health and Wellbeing**
- **Housing**
- **Regeneration and Environment**
- **Safer Communities**

3.1 The issue of town centre car parking has an impact on a variety of the priorities above. By creating a more efficient parking system, there will be economic benefits to a) local employers as travel times to and from work are reduced and b) town centre businesses as visitors to Slough are encouraged to shop in the area. The redevelopment of Slough and the creation of new housing will also require a suitable parking system for residents, whilst more suitable parking facilities (as opposed to improvised, poorly lit and secured premises) will discourage crime.

##### 4. **Supporting Information**

4.1 The Task and Finish Group was first raised as a possibility after the Planning Committee discussed the need for a more defined policy on town centre car parking. This matter was raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 11<sup>th</sup>

September 2014, where it was decided that the most appropriate solution would be the establishment of a Task and Finish Group.

4.2 The Task and Finish Group met on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2014 for its first discussion. This meeting examined the areas which would be of interest to the Group. On the basis of these discussions, the proposed terms of reference were formulated.

4.3 The specific areas which will form part of the review (e.g. the Western Heathrow Rail Access Project, the SMART bus transport scheme) were also discussed. However, the terms of reference do not mention these by name as to define these areas at this stage may rule out other matters which were not anticipated prior to the review, but arise as research is conducted and information gathered.

4.4 Once the terms of reference have been approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Task and Finish Group will initiate its review. A series of meetings will be held, with the first to be with Slough Borough Council officers in December 2014. Once the review has completed its work, it will complete a report with a series of recommendations arising from its findings. This final report will be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for review and comment before the end of the Municipal Year.

## 5. **Resource Implications**

5.1 The Task and Finish Group will be supported by 1 FTE member of staff. This officer is also responsible for supporting the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and three Scrutiny Panels. Therefore, this is a finite resource and consideration must be given, in conjunction with the work programmes for the three Scrutiny Panels, as to how the resource is used during the year.

## 6. **Conclusion**

6.1 This report is intended to provide the Committee with information and guidance on the work to be undertaken by the Task and Finish Group. There will be flexibility for the Task and Finish Group to arrange meetings to suit its work; however, its focus on the work it has been commissioned to complete will remain resolute.

## 7. **Appendices Attached**

A - Draft terms of reference for the Town Centre Car Parking Task & Finish Group

## 8. **Background Papers**

None.