

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Overview & Scrutiny Committee

DATE: 9th July 2015

CONTACT OFFICER: Dave Gordon – Scrutiny Officer
(For all Enquiries) (01753) 875411

WARDS: All

PART I **FOR INFORMATION**

TOWN CENTRE CAR PARKING TASK & FINISH GROUP – DECISIONS BY CABINET

1 Purpose of Report

To update the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the decisions taken by Cabinet regarding this Task & Finish Group's recommendations.

2. Recommendations/Proposed Action

That the Committee note the decisions.

3. The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan

3.1 The Council's decision-making and the effective scrutiny of it underpins the delivery of all the Joint Slough Wellbeing Strategy priorities. The Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the Scrutiny Panels combine to meet the local authority's statutory requirement to provide public transparency and accountability, ensuring the best outcomes for the residents of Slough.

3.2 The work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee reflects all the priorities of the Five Year Plan, namely:

- Slough will be the premier location in the south east for businesses of all sizes to locate, start, grow, and stay
- There will more homes in the borough, with quality improving across all tenures to support our ambition for Slough
- The centre of Slough will be vibrant, providing business, living, and cultural opportunities
- Slough will be one of the safest places in the Thames Valley
- More people will take responsibility and manage their own health, care and support needs
- Children and young people in Slough will be healthy, resilient and have positive life chances
- The Council's income and the value of its assets will be maximised
- The Council will be a leading digital transformation organisation

4. **Supporting Information**

4.1 The Town Centre Car Parking Task & Finish Group's recommendations were considered at the Cabinet meeting on 22nd June 2015. The decisions taken by Cabinet are noted below in sections 4.2 – 4.5.

4.2 The following recommendations were approved:

Recommendation 4

That land adoption be used to increase SBC's control of parking (e.g Kittiwake House, the area in Mill Street outside Foundry Court).

Recommendation 8

That the size of loading and unloading bays be reviewed to facilitate their use by larger vehicles.

4.3 The following recommendations would be taken forward as part of the review of the Local Plan:

Recommendation 1

That the current policy of zero parking be reviewed, with a future ratio to be specified subject to further research by Slough Borough Council (SBC) and justification.

Recommendation 5

That the current limit of 5,000 parking spaces be reviewed, using the justification for at the time of its creation and variations in the situation since this time (e.g. parking at Tesco's, Crossrail) to reappraise the figure.

4.4 For the following recommendations, Cabinet noted the responses and actions of Slough Borough Council's officers:

Recommendation 2

That the potential hire of, or use of parking permits with time restrictions in neighbouring parking facilities (e.g. Tesco car park) be researched;

Officers' responses and actions

There are already opportunities for residents/businesses to purchase permits from the Queensmere / Observatory shopping centres and also the Council for parking in the respective car parks this has not been taken up. It is recognised that Tesco could be utilised but there is no evidence that residents would prefer to park in an open and unsecure car park. However, we are able to provide overnight permits to residents who are interested in using the Town Centre car parks.

Recommendation 3

That the time restrictions on areas with single yellow lines be reduced to 6pm in suitable areas (subject to research by SBC)

Officers' responses and actions

These locations can be reviewed on a street by street basis. Locations that contain single yellow lines where parking would be obstructive and dangerous if parked on outside of the enforceable hours should be upgraded to double yellow lines (single yellow lines more than likely used historically). Locations where single yellow lines are used to combat a commuter parking problem can be reviewed on a street by street basis and the timings can be reviewed to increase parking capacity.

Recommendation 7

That the potential expansion of car parking facilities at Slough railway station be investigated

Officers' responses and actions

It is recognised that there may be a need for more car parking at the railway station when Crossrail and WRAtH come in. This could be provided on a stand alone basis or in conjunction with the development of adjacent sites.

- 4.5 For the following recommendations, no further immediate action would be taken:

Recommendation 6

That the parking at Slough railway station be removed from SBC's allocation of parking spaces.

Recommendation 9

That further research be conducted into the continuation of free parking after 3pm, or cheaper parking through the use of a 'Slough Card', with a view to a potential increase in high street trade.

5. **Conclusion**

This report is intended to inform the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as to the decisions taken with reference to the Town Centre Task & Finish Group.

6. **Appendices Attached**

None.

7. **Background Papers**

Agenda papers for Cabinet, 22nd June 2015.