

## **Cabinet Response to the Review of the Recreation Road South Car Park Task Group Scrutiny Report**

### Introduction

At the Cabinet meeting on 7th September 2011 consideration was given to the report of the Task Group on the Review of the Recreation Road South Car Park. The Leader welcomed the Chairman of the Task Group, Councillor S. P. Shannon to the meeting and invited him to introduce the report.

Councillor Shannon gave background information on the purpose of the Task Group and on the evidence which had been gathered during the investigation. Councillor Shannon also made reference to some additional information he had obtained following the completion of the report.

### Response to recommendations

Please find below responses to the recommendations contained within the scrutiny report:

#### **Recommendation 1**

That a PR exercise be carried out to promote the Recreation Road South Car Park (and all other car parks) and to highlight the qualities of the car parks and the benefits of the Pay on Foot system.

#### **Cabinet Response**

That officers be requested to report back on the publicity and promotion currently planned over the next twelve months in relation to encouraging use of Council owned car parks together with the benefits Pay on Foot system. It was felt this programme could be reviewed and amended if necessary in the light of the findings of the Task Group.

#### **Implementation Date** – March 2012

#### **Recommendation 2**

That the standard letter templates used by the Car Parking Team be reviewed to ensure they are in line with the Customer Service Strategy Guidelines.

#### **Cabinet Response**

That the recommendation be agreed and as part of the review to be undertaken, and in line with best practice from other Authorities, an explanation for the issue

of the Fixed Penalty Notice be provided to the recipient of the Notice in each case.

Implementation Date – November 2011

### **Recommendation 3**

That the Pay on Foot system be expanded to other car parks wherever possible.

### **Cabinet Response**

That the benefits of the Pay on Foot system be fully acknowledged, however in view of the Town Centre regeneration project which includes a comprehensive traffic management review, it would be premature to consider the introduction of a Pay on Foot system on other car parks at this stage.

### **Recommendation 4**

That free car parking be provided (in all car parks) all day on a Sunday in order to encourage people to visit the Town Centre.

### **Cabinet Response**

That the operation of the car parking service would be reviewed as part of the Shared Services and Transformation Programme and matters such as the structure of car parking fees would be considered as part of that review. It was acknowledged however that the financial implications of this recommendation would inevitably be a significant issue.

### **Recommendation 5**

That free car parking be provided (in all car parks) after 7.00pm in order to encourage people to visit the Town Centre.

### **Cabinet Response**

That the operation of the car parking service would be reviewed as part of the Shared Services and Transformation Programme and matters such as the structure of car parking fees would be considered as part of that review. It was acknowledged however that the financial implications of this recommendation would inevitably be a significant issue.

The Leader thanked the Task Group for their work in producing the report which had provided “food for thought”.

Councillor Mike Webb - Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services