

**BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**SCRUTINY STEERING BOARD**

**29TH JULY 2008**

**SCRUTINY REQUEST – CAR PARKING FOR BLUE BADGE HOLDERS**

Responsible Portfolio Holder	Portfolio Holder for Street Scene and Community Safety
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Street Scene and Community

**1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report relates to a request received from a member of the public regarding car parking for Blue Badge holders (please see Appendix 1).

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Scrutiny Steering Board has three options which are detailed in paragraphs 3.7 to 3.10 and are as follows:
- (a) In light of a similar request relating to car parking for over 60s being referred to the Performance Management Board, this matter is dealt with in the same way and also referred to the Performance Management Board;
  - (b) The item is added to the Scrutiny Steering Board's work programme; or
  - (c) No action is taken.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 An email from Mr. Leslie Irving (Vice-Chairman of the Older People's Forum) was received on Monday 14th July 2008. It requested the Performance Management Board to consider free parking for Blue Badge holders and the exact wording was as follows:

"To Performance Management Board I would like the subject of free parking for Blue Badge holders to be put on the Performance Management Board agenda for consideration. Attached is my letter to the local paper about my difficulties which also affect may others. Leslie Irving."

- 3.2 Mr. Irving's letter to the local paper referred to above is attached as Appendix 1.

3.3 As there is no mechanism in place for members of the public to refer items to the Performance Management Board, Mr. Irving was advised of his options which included contacting his Ward Councillor and/or requesting the Scrutiny Steering Board to consider this matter.

3.4 Mr. Irving has since requested that the Scrutiny Steering Board considers this item and an extract from his second email is below:

“...Would you please put my request to the Scrutiny Steering Board for them to consider free parking on their car parks in Bromsgrove. I have not found one council similar to Bromsgrove that charges for Blue Badge Holders for parking and nationally the trend is the same. It would appear that Bromsgrove is the exception rather than the rule.... Leslie Irving.”

3.5 Members of the Scrutiny Steering Board will remember that a similar request was received from Mr. Charlie Bateman (Chairman of the Older People’s Forum) regarding concessionary parking for the over 60s and the Scrutiny Steering Board requested that the matter be referred to the Performance Management Board.

3.6 The Performance Management Board considered this request at its meeting held on 15th July 2008 where it was agreed that this matter would be added to its work programme and an officer report would be considered on concessionary parking for over 60s once six months worth of the necessary data was available. (Clarification on legal, equalities and diversity implications was also sought and it was requested that such information should be included in the officer report. It was agreed that other points Members would like to be included within the report could be directed to the relevant Portfolio Holder and Head of Service.) It is anticipated that the report will be considered by the Performance Management Board at its meeting due to be held on 21st October 2008.

3.7 As this new scrutiny request from Mr. Irving is closely linked to Mr. Bateman’s, the Scrutiny Steering Board could decide to request the Chief Executive to refer this matter to the Performance Management Board suggesting that the officer report covers both car parking for over 60s and car parking for Blue Badge holders.

3.8 Alternatively, the Scrutiny Steering Board could decide to add the topic of free parking for Blue Badge holders to its own work programme. However, this may be seen as a disjointed approach considering parking for over 60s has already been referred to the Performance Management Board.

3.9 It should be pointed out that even if this matter was referred to the Performance Management Board, it does not prevent the Scrutiny Steering Board in scrutinising this subject at some point in the future, as it is always a possibility that in due course the Performance Management Board may

request the Scrutiny Steering Board to consider undertaking a more detailed scrutiny investigation at a later date, if its Members felt that was appropriate.

3.10 However, on this point Members are reminded that a scrutiny exercise was undertaken fairly recently by the Car Parking Scrutiny Task Group which included looking at issues facing Blue Badge holders and there was consultation with many representatives such as those from local Disabled User Groups. The scrutiny investigation was completed in March 2007 and there were recommendations specifically relating to Blue Badge Holders. In April 2007, the Cabinet decided that no action would be taken with regard to removing car parking charges for the disabled but the Cabinet did approve the second option put forward by Scrutiny which was to allow Blue Badge holders an additional hour of parking over and above the time for which they had paid. Members of the Task Group reconvened for a Review Meeting earlier this year in March 2008.

3.11 The final option open to the Scrutiny Steering Board is to take no action.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no financial implications directly relating to this report.

#### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no legal implications directly relating to this report.

#### **6. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES**

6.1 This report does not directly link to Council Objectives.

#### **7. RISK MANAGEMENT**

7.1 There is no risk, either negative or positive, directly associated with this report.

#### **8. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 There are no customer implications directly relating to this report. However, it should be pointed out that this issue has been raised by a local resident and customer of the Council and therefore Members are urged to give careful consideration to this request.

#### **9. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no implications directly relating to this report for the Council's Equalities and Diversity Policies. However, if this issue was considered further, Members would need to consider such implications.

## 10. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no Value for Money implications directly relating to this report.

## 11. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Procurement Issues – None.
Personnel Implications – None
Governance/Performance Management – None
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime and Disorder Act 1998 – None
Policy – None
Environmental – None

## 12. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

Portfolio Holder	N/A
Chief Executive	Yes
Executive Director - Partnerships and Projects	Yes
Executive Director - Services	Yes
Assistant Chief Executive	Yes
Head of Service	Yes
Head of Financial Services	Yes
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	Yes
Head of Organisational Development & HR	Yes
Corporate Procurement Team	No

## 13. WARDS AFFECTED

All Wards.

**14. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Letter to the local paper from Mr. Leslie Irving

**15. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.

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