

AGENDA ITEM: 8 Page nos. 1-5

Meeting	Business Management Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Date	29 February 2012
Subject	Reverse Parking Charges Petition
Report of	Scrutiny Office
Summary	This report provides Members with information relating to an online petition signed by 3,088 residents submitted to the Council in relation to Parking Charges

Officer Contributors	Melissa James, Overview & Scrutiny Officer
Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards affected	All
Enclosures	Appendix A – Petition Text
For decision by	Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That the Committee consider the petition received by the Council in relation to Reversing Parking Charges and make appropriate comments/recommendations to the Cabinet, relevant Cabinet Member or officers (as appropriate) in respect of the issues raised.**

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Panels and Task and Finish Groups must ensure that the work of Scrutiny is reflective of the Council's priorities.**
- 2.2 The three priority outcomes set out in the 2011-13 Corporate Plan are: –**
- **Better services with less money**
 - **Sharing opportunities, sharing responsibilities**
 - **A successful London suburb**

3. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS

- 3.1 Cabinet Resources Committee, January 13th 2011, Decision 5 – Fees and Charges for Environment and Operations**
- 3.2 Cabinet, February 14th 2011, Decision 8 – Fees and Charges for Environment and Operations**
- 3.3 Cabinet Resources Committee, December 14th 2011, Decision 14 – Environment, Planning, Regeneration Fees and Charges 2012/2013**

4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 Failure to deal with petitions received from members of the public in a timely way and in accordance with the provisions of the Council's Constitution carries a reputational risk for the authority.**

5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 5.1 In addition to the Terms of Reference of the Committee, and in so far as relating to matters within its remit, the role of the Committee is to perform the Overview and Scrutiny role in relation to:**
- **The Council's leadership role in relation to diversity and inclusiveness; and**
 - **The fulfilment of the Council's duties as employer including recruitment and retention, personnel, pensions and payroll services, staff development, equalities and health and safety.**

6. USE OF RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (Finance, Procurement, Performance & Value for Money, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 6.1 The impact of reversing the parking charge increases implemented in 2011 would be to sacrifice parking-related savings of £2,507k pa contained within the 2011/12–2013/14 MTFS, requiring substitution of alternative savings in their place.

7. LEGAL ISSUES

- 7.1 The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 requires local authorities to publicise and comply with a scheme for handling petitions and also provide a facility for electronic petitions on their websites.

8. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS

- 8.1 The scope of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees is contained within Part 2, Article 6 of the Council's Constitution.
- 8.2 The Terms of Reference of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees are set out in the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules (Part 4 of the Constitution).
- 8.3 Section 4, Public Participation Procedure Rules, paragraph 5.8 provide that petitions of over 2,000 signatures will be considered at the Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee, where an officer will be called to give account. The lead petitioner will have the right to address the Committee for five minutes.

9. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 9.1 In February 2012, an e-petition in the name of Councillor Kath McGuirk (Lead Petitioner) exceeded the 2,000 signature threshold requiring a debate at the Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The petition requests that the Council reverse the increased parking charges implemented in 2011. In accordance with the Public Participation Rules, relevant officers have been requested to attend the meeting to answer questions and give account to matters raised in the petition.
- 9.2 The Chairman has agreed that the petition will be discussed at the meeting following the format below:
- Lead Petitioner has five minutes to present the petition to the Committee;
 - Committee Members have the opportunity to ask questions of the Lead Petitioner;

- Relevant Officers (Interim Director Environment, Planning and Regeneration and the Principal Engineer) respond to the issues raised by the Lead Petitioner and Committee Members;
- Committee Members to ask any further questions of the relevant officers;
- Committee to agree any recommendations to be made to the Cabinet, relevant Cabinet Member or officers (as appropriate).

9.6 The text submitted with the 3,088 signature petition is attached at Appendix A.

10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 None

Legal: CH
CFO: MC/JH

Appendix A

“Petition to: reverse the parking charge increases implemented in 2011 that are having such a damaging impact on our local town centres and residents at a time when they can least afford it. We need action now to help small businesses and relieve residents. We believe that reversing the parking charges will increase the number of shoppers in our town centres, giving struggling local businesses and traders a much needed boost and helping our hard-pressed residents in these difficult economic times.

We the undersigned petition Barnet Council to reverse the parking charge increases implemented in 2011 that are having such a damaging impact on our local town centres and residents at a time when they can least afford it. We need action now to help small businesses and relieve residents. We believe that reversing the parking charges will increase the number of shoppers in our town centres, giving struggling local businesses and traders a much needed boost and helping our hard-pressed residents in these difficult economic times. [More details](#)

Submitted by Cllr Kath McGuirk of Barnet Labour Group – **Deadline to sign up by:**
14 March 2012 – **Signatures:** 3,088 (*as at 20th February 2012*)”