
Meeting	Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date	6 January 2014
Subject	Parking Policy Task and Finish Group
Report of	Scrutiny Office
Summary of Report	The Committee are requested to make a decision as to whether or not the Parking Policy Task and Finish Group should proceed taking into account the current projected timetable for the internal Parking Improvement Project (which includes the development of a borough-wide Parking Policy)

Officer Contributors	Andrew Charlwood, Overview and Scrutiny Manager
Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards Affected	All
Key Decision	N/A
Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in	N/A
Function of	Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Enclosures	None
Contact for Further Information:	Andrew Charlwood, Overview and Scrutiny Manager, 020 8359 2014, andrew.charlwood@barnet.gov.uk

1. RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 That the Committee consider the information set out in the report and decide whether or not to proceed with the Task and Finish Group on Parking Policy given the current projected timetable for the Parking Improvement Project.**

2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS

- 2.1 Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 7 October 2013, Members' Item – Parking Policy (Councillor Alan Schneiderman) – the Committee RESOLVED that a Task and Finish Group be established (to commence when resources become available in the Scrutiny Office) to review the costs and benefits of reintroducing cash meters in Barnet high streets and car parks, with the review to take evidence from residents, traders and local businesses, and other Councils where cash meters have been maintained and removed.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committees must ensure that the work of Scrutiny is reflective of the Council's priorities.
- 3.2 The three priority outcomes set out in the 2013 – 2016 Corporate Plan are: –
- Promote responsible growth, development and success across the borough.
 - Support families and individuals that need it – promoting independence, learning and well-being.
 - Improve the satisfaction of residents and businesses with the London Borough of Barnet as a place to live, work and study.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 None in the context of this report. Any risk implications would be addressed in the context of the Task and Finish Group review should the Committee decide to proceed with the review.

5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 5.1 Equality and diversity issues are a mandatory consideration in decision-making by the council pursuant to the Equality Act 2010. This means the council and all other organisations acting on its behalf must have due regard to the equality duties when exercising a public function. The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality and good relations into day to day business requiring equality considerations to be reflected into the design of policies and the delivery of services and for these to be kept under review.

- 5.2 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 Any use of resources implications would be addressed in the context of the Task and Finish Group should the Committee reaffirm their decision to proceed with a review. Gathering evidence from residents, traders and local businesses via a public consultation or a call for evidence is expected to have financial implications. In order to resource this potential cost, the Governance Service would need to redirect costs currently within the existing service budget to support this activity.

7. LEGAL ISSUES

- 7.1 None. This report seeks a Committee decision as to whether to proceed with a Task and Finish Group review.

8. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS (Relevant section from the Constitution, Key/Non-Key Decision)

- 8.1 The scope of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees is contained within Part 2, Article 6 of the Council's Constitution.
- 8.2 The Terms of Reference of the Scrutiny Committees are included in the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules (Part 4 of the Council's Constitution). The Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee has within its terms of reference responsibility:
- i) To have overall responsibility for monitoring and coordinating overview and scrutiny work across the authority.
 - ii) To appoint scrutiny panels and task and finish groups needed to facilitate the overview and scrutiny function.
 - iii) To coordinate and monitor the work of scrutiny panels and task and finish groups, including considering reports and recommendations and referring to the relevant decision-making body

9. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 9.1 In October 2013, Councillor Alan Schneiderman presented a Members' Item to the Business Management Overview & Scrutiny Committee in relation to commissioning a scrutiny review into Parking Policy in the borough. Councillor Schneiderman submitted the following information with his request:

- To ask the Business Management Overview and Scrutiny committee to consider setting up a quick fire Task and Finish Group to look into the costs and benefits of reintroducing cash meters in Barnet High Streets and Car Parks.
- The TFG should take evidence from residents, traders and local businesses and other Boroughs/Councils where cash meters have both been maintained and removed.

9.2 The Committee agreed to this request and in accordance with established practice, the Scrutiny Office have liaised with the relevant Delivery Unit Director and Lead Commissioner with a view to developing a Feasibility Study to enable the Members appointed to the Task and Finish Group to make an informed decision regarding the value of proceeding with an in-depth review at this time.

9.3 In conducting investigations into this issue, the Scrutiny Office have been made aware that an internal Parking Improvement Project has been initiated which will be considering:

- Parking Services – including signs and lines, enforcement, contract management and moving traffic violations;
- Parking Policy – including developing a borough wide policy informed by focus groups;
- Customer Experience – including end to end parking procedures and processes, traffic management orders and online transactions; and
- Communications – including a Barnet Guide to Parking, web content, review of customer communications, focus groups, communications plan and public consultation

9.4 The review commenced in mid-October and is currently on-going with the bulk of project activity taking place between November 2013 and January 2014. Cabinet are expected to approve the Final Draft Parking Policy in February 2014 prior to a period of public consultation. The Parking Improvement Project will be fully implemented by May/June 2014.

9.5 As set out in paragraphs 2.1 and 9.1 above, the Committee approved that a standalone Task and Finish Group be commissioned to consider the cost and benefits of reintroducing cash meters into Barnet High Streets. The on-going Parking Improvement Project includes:

- The development of a borough-wide Parking Policy (which will include consideration of payment options); and
- Consultation with residents, traders and local businesses

9.6 Task and Finish Group reviews normally take a minimum of three months to complete; the timing of reviews varies based on the complexity of the subject matter and the extent to which consultation is required. At the time of writing, some Member nominations are outstanding meaning that the first meeting of the Task and Finish Group is unlikely to take place until mid-January 2014. As

such, the timing of the Task and Finish Group is unlikely to dovetail effectively with the Parking Improvement Project.

9.7 On the basis set out above, the Committee are requested to consider whether a Task and Finish Group would be the most appropriate framework for non-Executive Member involvement in this Project. There are other alternative options which may provide an opportunity for Scrutiny Members to input directly into a wider ranging, more strategic policy which is in development, in addition to considering the specific issue of cash meters as agreed by the Committee. Alternative approaches include:

- Holding a deliberative forum for non-Executive Members at an appropriate time in the Project to enable input to the Parking Policy;
- Scrutiny of the Parking Policy via existing mechanisms (e.g. via a call-in to the Business Management Overview & Scrutiny Committee or via a committee report to the Budget & Performance Overview & Scrutiny Committee); or
- Another method as proposed and agreed by the Business Management Overview & Scrutiny Committee, the commissioning body for the Task and Finish Group.

9.8 The Committee's instructions on whether to proceed with a Task and Finish Group review into Parking Policy are requested.

10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 None.

Cleared by Finance (Officer's initials)	JH
Cleared by Legal (Officer's initials)	KH