
Meeting	Cabinet
Date	2 April 2014
Subject	Reference from Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Parking Policy (Cash Meters) Task and Finish Group
Report of	Scrutiny Office
Summary of Report	The report submits a reference from the Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the recommendations arising from the Parking Policy (Cash Meters) Task and Finish Group.

Officer Contributors	Anita Vukomanovic, Overview and Scrutiny Officer
Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards Affected	All
Key Decision	N/A
Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in	N/A
Function of	Executive
Enclosures	Annex 1 – Report to Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 11 March 2014 Appendix 1 – Final Report of the Parking Policy (Cash Meters) Barnet Task and Finish Group
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1. RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 That Cabinet considers and gives its instructions with respect to the recommendations made by the Parking Policy (Cash Meters) Task and Finish Group, as set out at Appendix 1.**

2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS

- 2.1 Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 7 October 2013, [Members Item – Parking Policy](#) – the Committee received a Member's Item in the name of Cllr. Schneiderman calling for a review into the benefits of reintroducing cash metres into Barnet High Streets.
- 2.2 Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 6 January 2014: [Parking Policy Task and Finish Group](#) – the Committee reviewed the decision to undertake a review of Parking Policy (Cash Meters) as set out in the Members' Item in the name of Cllr. Schneiderman in light of the on-going internal parking review and resolved that the Task and Finish Group on Parking Policy (Cash Meters) proceed as agreed in October 2013.
- 2.3 Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 11 March 2014, Agenda Item 11 (Parking Policy (Cash Meters) Task and Finish Group) – the Committee resolved to endorse the report for onward referral to Cabinet on 2 April 2014. A minute from the draft minutes of the meeting is set out a paragraph 9.2 below.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 As set out in the report to Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee at Annex 1.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 As set out in the report to Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee at Annex 1.

5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 5.1 As set out in the report to Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee at Annex 1.

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

- 6.1 As set out in the report to Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee at Annex 1.

7. LEGAL ISSUES

- 7.1 As set out in the report to Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee at Annex 1.

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

- 8.1 As set out in the report to Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee at Annex 1.
- 8.2 Council Constitution, Executive Procedure Rules, Section 2.3 – states that “At each meeting of the Executive the following business will be conducted: (v) consideration of reports from overview and scrutiny committees.”

9. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 9.1 As set out in the report to Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee at Annex 1.
- 9.2 The Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the findings and recommendations of the Parking Policy (Cash Meters) Task and Finish Group at their meeting on 11 March 2014. A draft minute extract from the meeting is set out below for Cabinet’s reference:

“PARKING POLICY (CASH METERS) TASK AND FINISH GROUP

The Chairman of the Parking Policy (Cash Meters) Task and Finish Group, Councillor Brian Gordon, presented the findings and recommendations of the Group. Councillor Alan Schneiderman, a Labour Member of the Task and Finish Group, was also in attendance to address the Committee on recommendation 1 which related to the reintroduction of cash pay and display meters.

Councillor Gordon informed the Committee that the Group had been sympathetic to those that were calling for the return of cash as a parking payment method, but the additional costs to cover the recently introduced credit/debit card machines to accept cash (as detailed on page 24 of the Task and Finish Group report) was an issue. Councillor Gordon highlighted that following the removal of pay and display machines in 2011, the community had reluctantly accepted pay by phone as the primary payment method for parking. It was highlighted that the policy to remove cash meters had already been implemented meaning that the Group had to consider the current position. He advised the Committee that the Conservative Members on the Group had agreed that the success of credit/debit card machines introduced in December 2013 should be evaluated before any recommendation was made to Cabinet whether or not to convert the new machines to accept cash payments.

The Committee questioned whether the reintroduction of cash as a payment method would actually increase churn on the high street or not. Councillor Gordon highlighted that there were potential further costs arising from the reintroduction of cash as pay and display machines had been vandalised in the past.

Councillor Schneiderman advised the Committee that the written and verbal evidence submitted to the Task and Finish Group had indicated support for the reintroduction of cash pay and display machines in high streets and car parks. It was on this basis that the Labour Group had made an alternative recommendation 1 which proposed the immediate reintroduction of cash as a payment method through the conversion of the recently introduced credit/debit card pay and display machines.

A Member suggested that introduction of pay by phone and the implementation of a cashless parking policy had been very unpopular and had contributed to consumers staying away from town centres.

Officers reported that the total cost detailed in Figure 2 in paragraph 6.3 was incorrect and should be £259,831.

Councillor Moore MOVED a motion that the Committee actively supports the Labour Group recommendation. Upon being put to the vote, the motion was LOST. The Chairman informed the Committee that the report of the Task and Finish Group would be referred to Cabinet including both the majority group and minority group recommendations. Cabinet would vote on whether they accepted or rejected the two alternatives for recommendation 1.

RESOLVED that the Committee endorse the report for onward referral to Cabinet on 2 April 2014.”

10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 None.

Cleared by Finance (Officer's initials)	JH/AD
Cleared by Legal (Officer's initials)	PM