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<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Business Management Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee</b>
<b>Date</b>	20 November 2012
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Reverse Parking Charges Petition - Update</b>
<b>Report of Summary</b>	<b>Scrutiny Office</b> <p>On 29 February 2012 the Committee considered a petition (signed by 3,088 residents) which requested a reverse in parking charges in the borough. Following consideration of the petition, the Committee made recommendations to the responsible officers and requested an update in September 2012.</p> <p>This report provides the Committee with an update on actions being taken in North Finchley. An officer will be in attendance to provide a verbal update on actions being taken across the borough.</p>
<b>Officer Contributors</b>	Andrew Charlwood, Overview & Scrutiny Manager
<b>Status (public or exempt)</b>	Public
<b>Wards Affected</b>	All
<b>Function of</b>	Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee
<b>Enclosures</b>	Annex A – Delegated Powers Report 1847 (Environment, Planning and Regeneration North Finchley Parking Review for 2012/2013), 5 November 2011
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## **1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 That the Committee consider the actions taken by the Council following consideration of the petition submitted in relation to parking charges increases and make appropriate comments and/or recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Environment and the responsible officers.**

## **2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS**

- 2.1 Cabinet Resources Committee, 13 January 2011, Decision 5 – Fees and Charges for Environment and Operations
- 2.2 Cabinet, 14 February 2011, Decision 8 – Fees and Charges for Environment and Operations
- 2.3 Delegated Powers Report 1375, 5 August 2011 – Re-provision of Parking Services
- 2.4 Delegated Powers Report 1493, 11 November 2011 – Implementing Scratch Cards to Facilitate Cashless Parking
- 2.5 Cabinet Resources Committee, 14 December 2011, Decision 14 – Environment, Planning, Regeneration Fees and Charges 2012/2013
- 2.6 Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 29 February 2012, Decision 7 – Reverse Parking Charges Petition
- 2.7 Delegated Powers Report 1727, 9 July 2012 – Environment, Planning and Regeneration North Finchley Parking Review for 2012/2013
- 2.8 Council, 10 July 2012, Decision 13 – Petition for Debate
- 2.9 Delegated Powers Report 1847, 5 November 2012 – Environment, Planning and Regeneration North Finchley Parking Review for 2012/2013

## **3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 The three priority outcomes set out in the 2012-13 Corporate Plan are: –
- Better services with less money
  - Sharing opportunities, sharing responsibilities
  - A successful London suburb

## **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 Pursuant to the Equality Act 2010 (“the Act”), the council has a legislative duty to have ‘due regard’ to eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act; advancing equality of opportunity between those with a protected characteristic and those without; and promoting good relations between those with protected characteristics and those without. The ‘protected characteristics’ are age, race, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy, and maternity, religion or belief and sexual orientation. The ‘protected characteristics’ also include marriage and civil partnership, with regard to eliminating discrimination.
- 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 None in the context of this report.

## **7. LEGAL ISSUES**

- 7.1. The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 introduced a requirement for the Council to have a petition scheme and to provide an e-petition system. The Localism Act 2011 has revoked the requirement for local authorities to have a petition scheme and e-petition system.
- 7.2 Following implementation of the Localism Act 2011, the Council have not yet revised their petition scheme. This issue will be considered at the next meeting of the Constitution, Ethics and Probity Committee and Members will take a decision on a local approach to petitions. In the interim, the currently adopted provisions within the Constitution will be applied to the management of petitions submitted to the Council.

## **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 Council Constitution, Section 4, Public Participation Procedure Rules – paragraph 5.8 provides that “Petitions of over 2,000 signatures will be considered at the Business Management Overview & Scrutiny Committee, where an officer will be called to give account...”

## **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 requested that the Council reverse the increased parking charges implemented in 2011. In accordance with the Council’s Public Participation Rules (which require petitions which have received in excess of 2,000 signatures to be considered by the Business Management Overview & Scrutiny Committee), the Committee considered the petition at their meeting on 29 February 2012 where the responsible officers were called to give account.

- 9.2 An extract of the decisions from the 29 February 2012 meeting is set out below:

“The Committee considered a petition received by the Council in relation to Parking Charges. The Lead Petitioner addressed the Committee and highlighted his concerns about the impact of the Council’s parking policy on residents, vulnerable people and small businesses.

The Assistant Director, Transport and Highways and the Highways Manager, Traffic and Development gave an account to the Committee of the Council’s parking and traffic management policies. The Committee were informed that a review of North Finchley town centre would commence on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012, with review findings expected to be available in six months time.

The Committee requested that officers give further consideration to parking charges and devise and implement a strategy for mitigating, in so far as is possible, the effects of increased parking charges on town centres.

### **RESOLVED that –**

- (1) Officers from the Environment, Planning and Regeneration Directorate provide to the Committee, by the end of September 2012, a report on the mitigation of parking charges on the boroughs town centres, making reference to the North Finchley Outer London Fund Parking Review.**
- (2) Officers from the Environment, Planning and Regeneration Directorate be recommended subject to necessary funding being available to give further consideration to parking charges and be requested to devise and implement a strategy for mitigating, in so far as is possible, the effects of increased parking charges on town centres, with the findings reported back to the Committee in due course.”**

9.3 Members are requested to consider the information provided in Delegated Powers Report 1847 dated 5 November 2012 (Environment, Planning and Regeneration North Finchley Parking Review for 2012/2013) attached at **Appendix A** which details mitigating actions being taken in North Finchley.

9.4 In accordance with the resolutions referred to above, an officer from Environment, Planning and Regeneration has been invited to attend the meeting to provide the Committee with an update on mitigating actions taken by the Council in relation to the borough as a whole.

## **10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

10.1 None.