

STRATEGIC REVIEW OF PARKING – PARKING VISION

COMMENTS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (ECONOMY AND GROWTH) 5th October 2017

The Executive Councillor for Operations outlined work undertaken by the Member Task & Finish Group and the stages to follow agreement of the Parking Vision. The Panel was reminded that the scope of the Task & Finish Group's work does not include reviewing car park fees and charges.

Timescales for future stages were discussed, with strategy development due to commence after the Vision has been agreed. There is a lot more evidence gathering and research to do to inform the strategy and following stages, with no fixed end date set for the final stage as there is a desire to do the work right and the amount of work involved in each stage still needs to be confirmed. The Executive Councillor for Operations will prepare a forward plan.

Members discussed the need to manage public expectations following the survey, with a suggestion that information could be published to set out the next steps and projected milestones. It was felt that in communicating the Vision there would be a need to be clear about why this focusses on Council-run car parks rather than wider car parking issues raised by the public. There were some concerns about the impact of changes to car park ownership since the timescales for asset disposals may require decisions before the parking strategy is likely to be completed.

Members welcomed a proposal to invite the Head of Operations to explain the complexities of Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) to the Panel and suggested that other Members could be invited to attend for this. Findings from the CPE study could be presented to the Panel when ready.

One Member expressed disappointment with the number of survey responses. While the 1,177 participants are a fraction of the number of residents and car park users who could have taken part, the market research company undertaking the survey was impressed with the response.

Panel Members also on the Task & Finish Group confirmed that they were happy with the direction of their work and all Panel Members were in favour of the Parking Vision. The Panel made a recommendation to Cabinet that they endorse the Parking Vision developed.