

Cabinet



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Title of Report:	Recommendation of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 11 November 2015: Car Parking Task and Finish Review Group – Final Report	
Report No:	CAB/SE/15/078	
Report to and date:	Cabinet	8 December 2015
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Purpose of report:	On 22 July 2015, a Task and Finish Review Group was established by the Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Committee to review car parking across the Borough. Appendix 1 to Report No: OAS/SE/15/017 (and also attached to this report) sets out the conclusions and recommendations of the Review Group, which were subsequently presented to the O&S Committee. For ease of reference and to provide further background to the review, Report No: OAS/SE/15/017 is also attached as Appendix A to this report.	
Recommendation:	It is <u>RECOMMENDED</u> that the fifteen recommendations, as set out in Section 9 of the Car Parking Task and Finish Review Group Report, attached as Appendix 1 to Report No: OAS/SE/15/017, be approved.	
Documents attached:	Appendix A – Report No: OAS/SE/15/017 Appendix 1 – Report by the Car Parking Task and Finish Review Group	

1. Key issues and reasons for recommendation

1.1 Key Issues

1.1.1 In 2012, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee undertook an extensive review of car parking provision and charging in St Edmundsbury. A significant number of recommendations were endorsed by Cabinet on 12 December 2012. This included the need for a full periodic review of car parking across the Borough every 3-4 years. A Task and Finish Group was therefore established by the Committee on 22 July 2015 to undertake this review.

1.1.2 The Terms of Reference for the Task and Finish Group were:

- (1) To evaluate the current performance of the service including usage, the location and condition of the car parks, quality of service delivery, the issues of Fines, car park incentive schemes and customer feedback.
- (2) To consider current levels of occupancy, future capacity projections and any interventions as required.
- (3) To assess the conclusions of the study on the merits and business case for the implantation of Pay on Exit/Automated Number Plate Recognition operation systems.
- (4) To review car park tariffs for the period of the Medium Term Financial Strategy, backed by consultation.
- (5) To identify changes and amendments needed to Traffic Road Order.

1.1.3 In commencing the review, the Task and Finish Group undertook extensive consultation with car parks users; key stakeholders and local businesses. In addition, specialist advice was sought from an independent consultant, Alpha Parking on existing and future capacity for the car parks across Bury St Edmunds and Haverhill.

1.1.4 On 11 November 2015, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee received Report No: OAS/SE/15/017 (Appendix A attached to this report), which set out the conclusions and fifteen recommendations from the Car Parking Task and Finish Review Group on car parking across the Borough (Appendix 1).

1.1.5 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the report in detail and asked a number of questions to which responses were provided. In particular discussions were held on:

- (1) **Parkway multi-storey** – It was noted this was a popular car park because it was cheap and was prime retail parking.
- (2) **Car park tariffs** – Some Members felt that prices would not deter people parking in the centre of town, even with cheaper (or free options) available a little further away, so the Council should not

dismiss the possibility of increasing charges.

- (3) **Ram Meadow** – It was agreed that the Council needed to encourage more people to use the Ram Meadow Car Park, but felt more lighting was needed.
- (4) **Pay-on-exit** – The Task and Finish Group had considered a trial. However, the trial would have cost an estimated £200,000 to install the barriers, the back office operation and a 24-7 service to respond to malfunctions; damage or driver error causing the blocking of exit routes. Pay-on-exit had not been ruled out, and it was envisaged that pay-on-exit would be installed when establishing new car parks particularly.
- (5) **West Suffolk College** – The Task and Finish Group reported that the College had not responded to a request to attend a car parking review meeting. Some Committee members felt the College should take some further ownership of their own parking issues.

1.1.6 The Cabinet Member for Operations informed the Committee that the Alpha Report was good and the Task and Finish Group's recommendations were excellent. What needed to be addressed were future car parking problems, and the Bury St Edmunds' Masterplans would help with this issue.

1.1.7 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has put forward a recommendation as set out on page one of this report.