

## LONDON BOROUGH OF WALTHAM FOREST

Committee/Date:	CABINET 19 <sup>th</sup> May 2004
Title:	<b>Council's Car Parking Scheme Review</b>
Council Priority:	Capacity and Culture Change
Directorate:	Corporate Services
Recommendations from:	SCRUTINY COMMISSION meeting on 12 <sup>th</sup> May 2004
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Action required:	For Decision
Wards affected:	Not Ward Specific
Appendices:	None
Open:	

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Overview and Scrutiny Commission received a report that outlined the findings of the review into the Council's Car Parking Scheme and the recommendations from the Management Board that the Council should continue to charge for car parking on its premises.

The Commission was unable to reach a unanimous conclusion about the benefits of the parking scheme and in recognition of the strength of feelings of Commission members and in line with the Council's constitution Members **agreed** to make both a majority and minority recommendation to Cabinet.

### 2. MAJORITY RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET

2.1 A majority of Members felt the scheme had not worked because:

- There had not been the anticipated reduction in employees using their cars to travel to and from work;
- There had been no significant reduction in the level of emissions;
- The scheme was running at a deficit of £14,000;
- On street parking by staff was inconveniencing local residents.

2.2 **Majority Recommendation** [Supported by 8 Members]

2.2.1 **The majority of Commission Members recommended to Cabinet that the Council should not continue with the Car parking Scheme.**

### MINORITY RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET

2.3 A minority of Members felt that as the scheme had only been in operation for six months insufficient time had elapsed to allow there to be a proper evaluation. Therefore the scheme should continue as set out in the report but with exemptions for essential users and should be subject to a further review in six months time.

2.4 **Minority Recommendation** [Supported by 4 Members]

**2.4.1 A minority of Commission Members recommended to Cabinet that the Council should continue with the Car Parking Scheme as set out in the report but with the exemptions for essential users and should be the subject of a further review in six months time.**

### **3. BACKGROUND**

The Commission noted that the Council had two objectives when it introduced the Car Parking Scheme:

1. To reduce dependency on the car and contribute to its green travel plan; and
2. To be a source of income to meet policy review target.

To date, only 70 people have joined the Green Travel Plan and the Commission concluded that having to pay car-parking charges has not prevented a significant number of staff from using their cars for travelling to and from work.

In addition, it was noted that in a full year, at the present rate of charging, net of VAT, the income received is £56,000. As there is a management fee of £20,000 and the policy review target is £50,000, this has left a deficit of £14,000.

The Commission noted the lack of consultation with staff prior to the introduction of the Scheme, which has led to dissatisfaction, and poor take up. This has contributed to a significant number of staff having decided to park on streets surrounding council car parks often inconveniencing the residents and sometimes causing hazards. In particular there is significant on street parking in the areas surrounding Chingford Municipal Offices (CMO) where some vehicles, most likely those belonging to staff working at the CMO, along with those used by some visitors, are not parked with due consideration to other road users. Vehicles are being parked close to all junctions and access roads; this reduces the road width and makes access more difficult. Residents have identified significant concerns in respect of this and claim that accidents have happened as a direct result, though this cannot be substantiated.

Members of the Commission felt that the Council as the main employer within Waltham Forest has a significant impact on the level of emissions from motor vehicles and that it is important to introduce measures that will make employees think very carefully about using their cars to travel to and from work. Members also felt that notwithstanding this point the Council should make proper provision for those members of staff who are essential users.

### **4. REASONS FOR DECISION**

The Commission has powers under the Local Government Act 2000 to recommend matters of general policy to the Cabinet.

### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The financial implications of this report are as set out within **Section 5.1** of the main report.

### **6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Cabinet has power to accept any of these recommendations but is not required to do so. The Commission's recommendation will form part of the evidence upon which Cabinet will make its final decision.

**7. SOCIAL INCLUSION, INCLUDING CORPORATE PARENTING AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN**

The Social Inclusion, Including Corporate Parenting and Vulnerable Children implications of this report are as set out within **Section 5.4** of the main report.

**8. HUMAN RESOURCES**

The Human Resource implications of this report are as set out within **Section 5.3** of the main report.

As a reference from the Overview and Scrutiny Commission, this report has not been cleared with the Portfolio Holder. The relevant Portfolio Holder is the Portfolio holder for Corporate Services.