

Call In - Camberley Multi-story Car Parks Tariff Review

Portfolio	Places & Strategy
Ward(s) Affected:	All

Purpose

To consider a Member Call-In in respect of a decision of the Executive taken on 12 September 2018 to increase Car Parking tariffs in Camberley Town Centre.

Background

1. The Executive, at its meeting on 12 September 2018, considered a report seeking approval to increase the tariffs charged in Camberley's multi-storey car parks. The report considered by the Executive is attached as Annex B.
2. Having debated the issue, the Executive agreed that the original recommendations would be altered to take into account the renovation work currently taking place in the car parks concern and it was subsequently resolved (Minute 22/E, attached as Annex C) that:
 - (i) the car parking tariffs, as set out at Annex 1 to the agenda, be agreed, to come into effect after the completion of the works detailed in paragraph 1.3 of the agenda report and following the statutory Traffic Regulatory Order process; and
 - (ii) subsidised annual permits of £150 per annum be made available for Camberley Town Centre workers earning the living wage or below.

Call-In

3. In accordance with Part 4, Section C of the Council's Constitution, following the publication of the summary of decisions of that meeting, Councillors Edward Hawkins and Valerie White called in the Executive decision at paragraph 2 citing the following grounds for concern:
 - a) The decision to raise car park charges at a time when the income from car parking is falling; there is a fall in the footfall in the shopping centre; works will be underway in the High Street which will potentially cause disruption to shoppers and traders.
 - b) Concern that items (i) and (ii) of the agenda item were combined without adequate debate.
4. As part of their Call In Submission Councillors Hawkins and White set out the following reasons for calling in the decision:
 - a) There was insufficient information contained in the report as to the proper timing of the scheduled works;

- b) Lack of information on the viability of Camberley Town Centre and the impact of the revenue raised in the current financial year;
- c) Furthermore, a competitor town in Bracknell is reported to have decided not to increase charges in the car parks it manages.

Options

5. Part 4, Section C, Annex A of the Council's Constitution sets out the following options that the Performance and Scrutiny Committee can consider when responding to the Call-In:
- (i) Agree with the decision which has been called in, in which case it will be implemented with immediate effect;
 - (ii) Agree with the decision but add informatives to submit to the decision maker;
 - (iii) Refer it to the decision maker for reconsideration, setting out in writing the nature of any concerns. The decision maker will consider the decision as soon as reasonably practicable (in the case of decisions made by the Executive as a whole this would normally be expected to be at its next meeting);

After re-consideration, the decision maker will either implement the original decision or amend it as appropriate;
 - (iv) If it considers that the decision is contrary to the Budget or Policy Framework, refer the matter to the Council;
 - (v) Refer it to the Council if it is considered that the consequences will be significant. Where a decision is within the purview of the Leader, individual Portfolio Holder or the Executive, the Council must refer the decision back to the decision maker, where appropriate, with any recommendations; or
 - (vi) Under certain circumstances, scrutiny committees can require the Leader, individual Portfolio Holder or the Executive to submit a report to Council where it thinks a key decision has been taken which was not included in the Forward Plan. The detailed procedure is set out in the Access to Information Procedure Rules at Part 4.

Recommendation

6. The Committee is asked to consider the Executive's decision in light of the Call-In and to make recommendations in line with the options outlined in paragraph 5 .

Background Papers: None

Annexes Annex A - Call In form
Annex B - Report to Executive
Annex C - Executive minutes

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