

Minutes of Decision Making Session for the Cabinet Member for Environment & Highways

**Wednesday, 1 February 2023 at 5.00 pm
at Council Chamber - Sandwell Council House, Oldbury**

Present: Councillor Ahmed

Officers: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy; Robin Weare – Service Manager – Highways; Trisha Newton – Deputy Democratic Services Manager; Connor Robinson – Democratic Services Officer and John Swann - Democratic Services Officer.

1/23 Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were received.

2/23 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

3/23 Advertising Changes to The Off-Street Parking Places Order and Long Stay On-Street Parking Charges. Consultation Response

Further to approval at the Cabinet meeting on 20 July 2022 (Minute No. 148/22) of the Parking Charges Policy, the Cabinet



Member for Environment Services considered responses to the consultation.

Changes to the off-street parking places across the Borough and long stay on-street parking in Wednesbury and West Bromwich had been advertised between 18 August and 30 September 2022.

Following objections received from members of the public, the Cabinet Member for Environment Services considered representations which included:-

- public transport was not always a feasible option for those with mobility requirements and other circumstances;
- the increased charges were predicted to have an adverse impact upon footfall and would have a detrimental impact upon shoppers and business;
- parking space capacity did not meet demand;
- the decision to raise charges would place additional pressure upon the finances of residents during a cost of living crisis;
- the increased charges would negatively impact upon members of staff.

The Service Manager – Highways outlined that parking charges in the Borough had not increased since 2016 and there was a need to maintain the car parking facilities and that an existing public transport network was in operation within Sandwell.

After considering the representations made, the Cabinet Member for Environment Services was minded to recommend a further report to Cabinet.

Resolved that a further report be submitted to Cabinet to consider the review of Parking Charges Policy.

Meeting ended at 5.31pm

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