

**Environment  
Scrutiny and Performance Panel**

**Agenda  
Item No.**

**DATE: 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2011**

**8**

**Update on Town Centre Parking Working Group**

**Ward(s)** All

**Portfolios:** Cllr Ansell - Transport

**Report:**

This report sets out a summary of the first two meetings of the Town Centre Parking Working Group and informs the Panel of the planned future work of the group.

The Working Group consists of:

Councillor L Beeley (Lead Member)  
Councillor R. Carpenter  
Councillor D. Anson  
Councillor J. Cook

To date the Working Group has met on two occasions.

At it's first meeting, held on 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2011 the Working Group met with officers from the Council and received a presentation on car parking matters including:-

- The Local Transport Plan
- Parking Strategy
- The Traffic Management Act
- Regeneration Policy
- Public Expectation
- Business Needs
- Revenue Generation

Arising from ensuing discussion, the group identified key areas for further consideration including the existing and possible future charging structure, the future levels and locations of council parking provision, the implications of further reductions in parking stock and the implications of free district parking. Members also requested that the Town Centre Manager and representatives from Regeneration be invited to the next meeting. This was to enable the Working Group to gain a broader perspective on town centre parking and to better understand the compromises which sometimes had to be made between the provision of car parking and regenerating the town centre.

At their second meeting, held on 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2011, Members received presentations from the Town Centre Manager and representatives from

Regeneration. Discussion also took place on the issue of illegal car parks operating within the Town Centre. Members discussed the regeneration of areas including Walsall Gigaport/Office Corridor, St Matthews Quarter and the Waterfront and the impact of such developments on town centre car parking provision. Members were keen to look at planning conditions attached to developments such as supermarkets and hotels in relation to parking and requested that the matter be discussed at their next meeting.

When discussing town centre management Members were updated on the town centre survey. Arising from discussions it was agreed that representatives from the Chamber of Commerce be invited to the next meeting. Members also agreed to look in more depth into Hatherton Road car park, the charging structure in place and locations of car parks.

In conclusion, Members agreed that in order to ensure that car park usage was maximised there needed to be:-

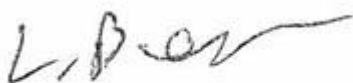
- An attractive and vibrant town centre offering both shopping and leisure facilities;
- Good quality car parking in suitable locations;
- Competitive and fair charging structures for both private and council car parks (a cohesive approach);
- A mix of long/short & on street car parking

The next meeting of the Working Group has been scheduled for 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2011 with the Working Groups final report expected to be submitted to the Panel in April, 2011.

#### **Recommendations:**

#### **That:**

The Environment Scrutiny and Performance panel note the progress made by the Town Centre Parking Working Group.



**Councillor L. Beeley**  
**Lead Member of the Town Centre Parking Working Group**

#### **Contact Officer:**

Neil Picken  
☎. 01922 652018  
pickenn@walsall.gov.uk