
EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON 1 DECEMBER 2011

EEOSP.77/11

CAR PARKING STUDY

(Public and Press excluded by virtue of Paragraph 3)

The Assistant Director (Economic Development) (Ms Culleton) introduced Mr Trevor Clark from Buchanan Order Management who gave a presentation on the results of the Car Parking Study. Ms Culleton explained that Mr Clark had been invited to carry out the study as he had previous knowledge of the parking issues within Carlisle and would be able to give an independent view of the problems and suggest potential solutions. Ms Culleton advised that the report, with the exempt information removed, would be made public at a later date.

Mr Clark explained the study objectives and approach taken. Mr Clark had observed a number of car parks at various times of the day and had looked at the current charges in the car parks and the impact changes to those tariffs had had on usage. Mr Clark reminded Members of the current position and outlined the options that could be immediately available and also medium to longer term options. Mr Clark outlined a proposed new structure to the charging schedules in respect of both Pay and Display car parks and contract parking.

The Chairman thanked Mr Clark for the presentation and added that she was pleased that the study had linked the proposals to the economic vitality of the City as well as looking at the revenue benefits of the options.

- *Carlisle had unique geographical issues such as rural areas having no public transport and people living within the City who required a car to travel outside the City.*
- *A Member believed that some people were not prepared to walk long distances from car parks into the City Centre. There was the risk that they would use the facilities at Gretna Gateway or the Metro Centre which both had free parking.*

Mr Clark advised charges could be adjusted as a result of usage of the car parks.

The Environment and Housing Portfolio Holder advised that the Highways Joint Committee had responsibility for some of the parking issues raised in the report but there was not a single individual Officer that people could contact for information. It was suggested that Members of the Executive be empowered to work with the County Council's Highways and Transport Working Group to progress the necessary work.

- *Members suggested some alternatives to the recommendations within the report.*

- *When would the recommendations in the study be adopted and implemented? Why had enforcement declined? Had any thought been given to free parking days?*

The Environment and Housing Portfolio Holder explained that dialogue would be needed with the County Council before the recommendations could be implemented. However, Ms Culleton believed that the recommendations could be implemented in February following approval by Council.

With regard to enforcement, Ms Culleton explained that there had been a shortage of wardens but the Council now had the full complement of wardens to enforce that action.

There were a number of options suggested with regard to encouraging people to park in the City, one of which was a free parking day. Members agreed that there needed to be dialogue with businesses to determine what they required and how they could help.

- *Would it be easier to increase or decrease charges if machines with the latest technology were installed?*

Mr Clark confirmed that would be the case and the machines would also provide additional information regarding where people were parking and how long they were staying that would provide information to determine more appropriate charges.

RESOLVED: 1. That all recommendations in the Action Plan that were solely the responsibility of the City Council be approved with the exception imposing a charge for non-essential staff parking which would be reviewed.

2. That Members of the Executive be empowered to work with the County Council's Highways and Transport Working Group to progress the necessary work.