

REPORT BACK FROM ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT SELECT COMMITTEE ON MOTIONS REFERRED

- 1 At its meeting on 18 May 2011 the Environment & Transport Select Committee considered a motion referred to it by the Council on 22 March 2011. The motion was as follows:

‘This Council:

Notes that the Cabinet is proposing to introduce new on-street charges for car parking bays in market towns and rural villages throughout Surrey.

Recognises that on-street car parking charges would:

1. Further disadvantage local retailers at a time of economic difficulty;
2. Increase car parking congestion in residential roads close to town and village centres;
3. Inconvenience local people seeking a brief parking period to visit a cashpoint, collect a parcel or a prescription or make a simple purchase.

Resolves to request that the Cabinet reconsider its proposal to introduce new on-street charges for car parking bays in market towns and rural villages with a view to abandoning them forthwith’.

Discussion at the meeting of 18 May 2011:

- 2 Although Eber Kington (Epsom and Ewell North) had also originally tabled a motion on the subject of on-street parking charges, he withdrew it, and was allowed to speak on Stephen Cooksey’s motion as set out above.
- 3 The Committee did not agree with the issues raised in the motion because the majority of Members believed that its arguments were out of date. Since the motion had originally been referred, the On-Street Parking Task Group had engaged in extensive consultation with Local Committee Chairmen. Their feedback had been taken into account when the Task Group made its recommendations as to what should go out to formal public consultation. The Committee believed that these recommendations were a significant improvement upon those previously given to the Cabinet Member for Transport by officers.
- 4 A majority of the Committee therefore believed that the recommendations of the Task Group addressed and alleviated the concerns raised in the motion. Following discussion, the Committee addressed each of the points in turn and considered:

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- (a) That charging would improve churn through the reduction in the extended occupancy of parking bays – whether from shoppers, or shop workers themselves – potentially making local shops more economically viable, rather than less.
- (b) That the introduction of residents' permit schemes – simultaneously wherever possible - would help to prevent parking congestion in residential roads close to town and village centres, thus addressing point 2 of the motion.
- (c) That the introduction of a free 30-minute period was regarded as alleviating any concerns relating to any inconvenience that might be suffered by local people seeking a brief parking period to visit a cash point, collect a parcel, or a prescription, or make a simple purchase etc.

The Committee then voted on each point of the motion in turn, and rejected them all by a majority.

Decision by the Select Committee:

- 5 The Committee resolved not to endorse the motion to Council.

Recommendation to Council:

- 6 That Council does not endorse the motion.

Steve Renshaw
Chairman, Environment & Transport Select Committee