

**ENVIRONMENTAL AND PLANNING REVIEW COMMITTEE
19 JANUARY 2009**

PARKING ISSUES TASK AND FINISH GROUP - UPDATE

REPORT OF THE CITY SOLICITOR

**Strategic Priorities: Attractive and Inclusive City and Prosperous City
Corporate Performance Objectives CI01**

1. Why has the report come to the Committee

- 1.1 To receive an update on the work of the Task and Finish Group on Parking Issues established by the Review Committee.
- 1.2 The work of the Task and Finish Group will support the Council in achieving its strategic priorities of an Attractive and Accessible City.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Committee has earlier agreed to establish a task and finish group to examine a range of parking issues within the city. The Group comprises Councillors Colin Wakefield, Elizabeth Gibson and Alan Wright
- 2.2 The Group brief was to look in detail at a range of parking issues affecting the city.
- 2.3 At its initial meeting, the Group agreed to focus its work on the following issues:--
 - ❑ parking issues within the city focusing on the Doxford International Business Park and the area around the City Hospital and to consider the possible solutions
 - ❑ residents parking zones
 - ❑ the consultants report on the Council's Civil Parking Enforcement
 - ❑ the implementation of parking enforcement and whether it is at an appropriate level
 - ❑ the future of off road parking in the city.

Current Position

- 2.4 The Task and Finish Group has held two meetings with the Head of Transport and Engineering to consider the background to the parking issues in the city. There has also been also consideration and discussion on parking enforcement and its implementation in the city and proposals for the future of off road parking.
- 2.5 In October 2008, the Group undertook a visit to Doxford International Business Park in order to view at first hand the parking issues in the area.

2.6 A number of issues emerged during the visit including:-

- The streets in the area are marked by cars parked on footpaths and verges making it difficult for people in wheelchairs or with young children to move safely around the area.
- The Group supported the establishment of restrictions in the area which should offer some improvement. This should improve the local environment and ease the problem of parking in the adjacent streets.
- The Group supported plans for controlled parking. It was important to ensure that this was enforced and that any problems were not exported to other adjacent areas.
- Any solution should not adversely affect local businesses in the area
- It was suggested that the parking situation could be relieved by removing double yellow lines from one side of the street and allowing verge parking in certain areas. There was also potential to introduce lay-by parking and sacrifice part of footway in certain areas.
- The Council's Travel Plan Officer important role in working with local firms to encourage car sharing and promoting travel to work plans with local businesses.
- It is important to ensure that there is adequate public transport to and from Doxford International Business Park to provide a realistic alternative to car travel.
- There was evidence that private car parks in the area were being underutilised.

2.7 On 16 January 2009, the Group will be visiting the City Hospital in order to view the situation in the area and meet with management of the city hospital in order to discuss parking issues.

2.8 Following the visit, the Group will have a further meeting to consider issues relating to residential parking and to review the evidence gathered to date. It will then meet to consider its final report and recommendations prior to the submission of its report to this Committee.

3. Recommendation

3.1 Members are asked to note the current position on the work of the Task and Finish Group.

4. Background Papers

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