

Recd 4.50pm
4/12/06

NOTIFICATION OF CALL – IN

Decision to be called in: Free Saturday Car Parking

Decision reference: C/067/2006-07

Portfolio: Civil Engineering and Maintenance

Description of Decision: As items 9 (1) (a-h), (2), (3), (4) and (5) in the Cabinet decisions paper

Reason for call-in:

The principle of free Saturday car parking is not an issue in this call-in. However the Cabinet has failed properly to consider and justify its decision and in particular:

Finance

- When considering the financial aspects of the decision no account has been taken of the 'knock-on' effects of the reduced use of the short stay car parks and on-street pay and display bays
- No account has been taken of the potential effect on weekday parking charges, which are set to rise in the next financial year with a potential negative effect on town centres.
- It is entirely unclear how the £75,000 loss to the Continuing Service Budget will be funded, whether by council tax rises, cuts to services, increases to fees and charges or some other method.
- At a time of financial strain it pre-empts the budget-making process.

Operational

- The nature of the link between the level of car park charges and the vitality and viability of Epping Forest's Town Centres has not been properly considered; therefore it is not clear that the Cabinet's decision will have the intended effect
- The criteria for review have not been established, meaning that the success of the scheme cannot be properly measured
- The effect on parking as a whole in the affected towns, especially in Loughton and Buckhurst Hill, has not been properly evaluated.

Procedural

- There has been insufficient consultation with town and parish councils and local ward members, meaning that some of the potential consequences of the decision have not been properly considered

Members supporting the call-in

~~Johnathan~~ JH WHITEHOUSE
Keith Wright
P.J. Spence

R.R. Frankel R. Frankel
P. Brooks P. BROOKS
J. Markham J. MARKHAM