

# Economic Development and Enterprise Committee

## Brief for Scrutiny - Newcastle Town Centre Public Car Parks

<p><b>Topic to be scrutinised</b></p> <p>The management and operation of car parking in Newcastle Town Centre.</p>
<p><b>Questions to be addressed</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The advantages and disadvantages of a 'pay on foot' car park payment system.</li><li>2. Can such a 'pay on foot' payment system be introduced in the Midway Car Park? If so what are the capital costs and are there any revenue implications.</li><li>3. Are there any other payment options? If so, what are the associated implementation and revenue costs? (e.g. cashless parking)</li><li>4. Investigating alternative payment tariffs (with the aim of attracting and retaining shoppers / visitors for longer periods of time).</li><li>5. What are the revenue and capital implications of managing town centre car parks?</li><li>6. What proportion of NBC's income from fees/charges is derived from car parking fees and what would be the impact of significant reduction in gross income?</li><li>7. How do NBC's Newcastle town centre car parking charges compare with nearby town centres?</li><li>8. What are the known or likely impacts upon the town centre economy of the current parking fee levels?</li></ol>
<p><b>Outcome</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Increased knowledge of the variables affecting parking, including budgetary impact (revenue and capital) and potential economic impact.</li><li>2. The introduction of new payment systems.</li><li>3. Potential proposals for an alternative charging structure that better supports the town centre economy.</li></ol>
<p><b>Background materials</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Town centre car park occupancy report Nov 2011.</li><li>2. Additional town centre car park occupancy data May 2012.</li><li>3. Current car park fees and charges, including comparison data.</li><li>4. Revenue budget information.</li><li>5. Any relevant reports about the health and viability of the town centre, including the Portas review.</li><li>6. Any relevant publications by others.</li></ol>
<p><b>Evidence and witnesses</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Representative(s) of town centre businesses.</li><li>2. Graham Williams NBC Engineering Manager.</li><li>3. Senior Regeneration Officer.</li><li>4. Senior Finance officer.</li><li>5. Other relevant partners.</li></ol>

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<b>Method of scrutiny</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The Scrutiny Committee may wish to propose a methodology for this work, which could include presentations and the setting up of a small member sub-group.</li></ol>
<b>Timetable</b> <p>Any proposal that has any significant financial implication would need to be fed into the budget setting process.</p>
<b>Constraints</b> <p>Depends upon preferred approach and breadth / depth of the review; may be capacity / resourcing issues.</p>
<b>Members to undertake the scrutiny</b> <p>Members of the Economic Development and Enterprise Committee.</p>
<b>Support</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Graham Williams Engineering Manager</li><li>2. Head of Assets and Regeneration</li><li>3. Head of Housing and Regeneration</li><li>4. Head of Finance</li></ol>
<b>Newcastle Borough Council Corporate Plan Priority area (s)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Creating a cleaner, safer and sustainable Borough</li><li>○ Creating a Borough of opportunity</li><li>○ Creating a healthy and active community</li><li>○ Transforming our Council to achieve excellence</li></ul>
<b>CfPS Objectives:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Provides and critical friend challenge to executive policy makers and decision makers</li><li>● Enables the voice and concerns of the public to be heard</li><li>● Is carried out by independent governors who lead and own the scrutiny role</li><li>● Drives improvement in public services</li></ul>
<b>Brief approved by Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee</b>  Signed   Date