



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

An **Extraordinary** Meeting of the **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE** will be held at the Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham RG40 1BN on **TUESDAY 17 MAY 2016 AT 7.30 PM**

Andy Couldrick
Chief Executive
Published on 9 May 2016

This meeting may be filmed for inclusion on the Council's website.

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Our Vision

A great place to live, an even better place to do business

Our Priorities

Improve educational attainment and focus on every child achieving their potential

Invest in regenerating towns and villages, support social and economic prosperity, whilst encouraging business growth

Ensure strong sustainable communities that are vibrant and supported by well designed development

Tackle traffic congestion in specific areas of the Borough

Improve the customer experience when accessing Council services

The Underpinning Principles

Offer excellent value for your Council Tax

Provide affordable homes

Look after the vulnerable

Improve health, wellbeing and quality of life

Maintain and improve the waste collection, recycling and fuel efficiency

Deliver quality in all that we do

MEMBERSHIP OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Councillors

Tim Holton (Chairman)	Michael Firmager (Vice-Chairman)	Prue Bray
UllaKarin Clark	Kate Haines	Pauline Helliar-Symons
John Jarvis	Norman Jorgensen	Dianne King
Ken Miall	Malcolm Richards	Shahid Younis

Substitutes

Laura Blumenthal	Lindsay Ferris	Abdul Loyes
Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey		

ITEM NO.	WARD	SUBJECT	PAGE NO.
77.		<p>APOLOGIES To receive any apologies for absence</p>	
78.		<p>DECLARATION OF INTEREST To receive any declarations of interest</p>	
79.		<p>PUBLIC QUESTION TIME To answer any public questions</p> <p>A period of 30 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to ask questions submitted under notice.</p> <p>The Council welcomes questions from members of the public about the work of this committee.</p> <p>Subject to meeting certain timescales, questions can relate to general issues concerned with the work of the Committee or an item which is on the Agenda for this meeting. For full details of the procedure for submitting questions please contact the Democratic Services Section on the numbers given below or go to www.wokingham.gov.uk/publicquestions</p>	
80.		<p>MEMBER QUESTION TIME To answer any Member questions.</p>	
81.	None Specific	<p>CALL-IN OF EXECUTIVE DECISION - EVENING, SUNDAY AND SHUTE END CHARGES To consider the Call-In of the Executive decision to introduce evening and Sunday charges for Wokingham Borough Council car parks and charges for the Shute End Council offices car park.</p>	
81.1		<p>Background In accordance with the Council's Constitution, five non-Executive Members of the Council have submitted a</p>	

formal notice “calling in” the Executive decision to introduce evening, Sunday and Shute End car park charges.

The full decision made by the Executive was as follows:

Decision:

- 1) That approval be given to the permanent making of the Wokingham Borough Council (Various Off-Street Borough Car Parks) (Variation (2)) Order 2016;
- 2) That Officers be instructed to amend signage and equipment in the car parks;
- 3) That those who have responded to the consultation be informed accordingly.

The decision has been called in on the following grounds:

- 1) The decision has contravened Section 1.4.2 a) of the Council’s Constitution, in that the action being proposed is not proportionate to the desired outcome. A blanket charge is proposed for all car parks except one, no matter what their location or usage;
- 2) The decision has contravened Section 1.4.2 b) of the Council’s Constitution, in that due consultation has not occurred. Consultation was on the tariff, not on the principle. No specific consultation with potentially affected businesses, organisations or individuals seems to have taken place. Additionally, professional advice appears only to have been provided by Highways Officers, not from those working in other areas which may have been impacted by the decision;
- 3) The decision has contravened Section 1.4.2 d) of the Council’s Constitution, in that openness has not been observed. There was no warning about the proposal prior to the consultation on the level of the charges;
- 4) The decision has contravened Section 1.4.2 e) of the Council’s Constitution, in that clarity of aims and desired outcomes has not been achieved. During the course of the Executive meeting it was suggested that the charges would not be

introduced in Woodley and daytime charges would be introduced instead. But the recommendations were voted through unchanged. There is no supporting evidence to demonstrate whether or how the aim to raise more revenue will be achieved.

- 5) The decision has contravened Section 1.4.2 f) of the Council's Constitution, in that only one option has been presented and no details of any other options considered have been presented.

81.2

Reference Information for Consideration by the Committee

7 - 34

- 1) A copy of the Call-In notice and supporting information;
- 2) Report on Evening, Sunday and Shute End Charges, considered by the Executive on 31 March 2016. Note: the report includes an Appendix containing the responses to the public consultation. Due to the size of this Appendix it is not included in the Agenda but can be found on the Council's website or is available on request from Democratic Services.
- 3) Extract from the Draft Executive Minutes for 31 March 2016 including public questions relating to the issue;
- 4) Additional information on the Council's financial position and two witness statements;
- 5) Briefing Paper by the Director of Environment on the issues raised by the Call-In;
- 6) Summary of Car Parks Income and Expenditure.

81.3

List of Witnesses and Indicative Timetable

35 - 36

A list of witnesses and an indicative timetable for the meeting.

82.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee consider the Call-In and either:

- a) Confirm the decision of the Executive, or
- b) Recommend that the decision be reconsidered by the Executive, setting out the nature of its concerns.

83.

**ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN
DECIDES ARE URGENT**

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