

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REVIEW

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

Purpose of Review: To consider the problems of commuter and other parking at, or near, railway stations.

1. To consider the desirability of car parking near railway stations keeping pace with the rising demand for rail travel and if such additional car parking is deemed to be necessary, where and how it could that be provided.
2. To consider if, or indeed when, planning for these services should start, given that outline planning applications have been submitted for the Arborfield SDL and house building is proceeding in the Shinfield SDL.
3. To consider whether a feeder bus service to stations would be desirable. The potential for smart or through ticketing might also be examined
4. To enquire what improvements, if any, have been achieved since the adoption of LTP3 and what further improvements are planned.
5. To consider the balance of parking restrictions and enforcement as to whether motorists are being discouraged rather than being encouraged to change their mode of travel.
6. To consider the effect on residents living in the area.

Key Objectives:

1. To determine what progress has been made towards the goals in LTP3
2. Is further car parking near railway stations desirable and practical and, if so, where and how should that be provided?
3. What planning should be initiated for the orbital and for other bus feeder services suggested in the adopted Park & Ride Strategy? What through ticketing might be possible?
4. What improvements in active transport have been achieved since the adoption of LTP3 and what further improvements are planned and what further improvements are needed?
5. Is the current balance between having parking restrictions and encouraging modal shift correct and how should it be changed?

Scope of the work:

1. To gain an understanding of the current commuter parking situation in the Borough and immediately adjoining areas.

2. To gain an understanding of the impact of alternative modes of travel as possible solutions.
3. To gain an understanding of how the Vision priority to tackle congestion and improve journeys across the Borough is being impacted by the problems of commuter parking.
4. To gain an understanding of how Commuter parking impacts on economic growth and business and links to ensuring strong sustainable communities both of which form part of the Vision.
5. To gain an understanding of appropriate local and national policies relating to commuter parking.
6. To consider what constraints exist.
7. To consider the impact of service changes.

BACKGROUND:

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, at its meeting held on 23 June 2014, considered a number of suggestions from Members for possible Scrutiny reviews.

Councillor Lindsay Ferris had put forward a suggestion relating to the impact of commuter parking on Wokingham Borough Council residents across the Borough.

Commuter parking in residential roads can be seen across the Borough and this has a negative impact on residents for example, in Winnersh, Twyford and Wokingham. This links to the Vision priority to tackle congestion and improve journeys across the Borough. Commuter parking is also linked to economic growth and business and links to ensuring strong sustainable communities both of which form part of the Vision. Tackling this issue and improving the situation would have a direct benefit to residents. Planned development in the Borough will increase the number of residents and will exacerbate this issue.

Commuter parking has caused particular concerns with access to residential roads e.g. waste collection and emergency vehicles. For example, in Cavendish Gardens, Winnersh a petition for double yellow lines. In Wessex Gardens, Twyford a petition in 2010 and further request in 2012. In Jan 2014 waste collection could not be made due to parking blocking the road.

SPECIFIC AREAS FOR THE PANEL TO ADDRESS:

- 1) Consultation with residents in all areas surrounding railway stations in the Borough.
- 2) A report assessing exactly when and where commuter parking creates problems and establishing the full extent of the problem.
- 3) The Committee to look at and make recommendations on a Commuter Parking Policy.
- 4) Development of a fair, even handed and consistent policy that can be applied across the Borough.
- 5) The Committee invite Councillors Lindsay Ferris and David Sleight to assist as they have knowledge, skills and contacts to help with the review.

INFORMATION GATHERING:

Witnesses to be invited

Name	Organisation/Position	Reason for Inviting
Rail companies;	First Great Western	To obtain their views
	Network Rail	To obtain their views
	Crossrail.	To obtain their views
Various Groups/Officers/MP/ Councillors	Rail user groups; Other Councillors; Theresa May MP; South West Trains LSTP Officers; Representative from the LEP.	To find out what they have done to tackle the problem of commuter parking.
Residents who commute		To obtain their views

Information to be obtained from

Organisation	Information to be Requested
Various Local Authorities	Benchmarking exercise.

Key Documents / Background Data / Research:

1. A benchmarking exercise be carried out with other local authorities to see if (and if they have, how) they have reviewed the problems of commuter parking at or near railway stations;

TIMESCALE:

Starting: June 2015

Ending: November 2015

REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS:

Body	Date
Executive	28 January 2016

Referred by the Management Committee to: Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Terms of Reference agreed by: Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Committee Members involved in the review: To be confirmed but to include Councillors Lindsay Ferris and David Sleight

Committee Lead Member: Councillor Norman Jorgensen
Executive Member: Councillor John Kaiser