

# CALL-IN

## Off Street Car Park Charges

Agenda Item 39 Executive Meeting 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022

We the undersigned members of Wokingham Borough Council would like to call in the decision made by the Lib Dem / Labour coalition Executive to increase car park charges where they already exist and introduce new ones where they did not exist.

The grounds, ***based on Wokingham Borough Council's Constitution***, for calling in the Executive Decision are as follows. Comments on each point are in italics.

### 1.4.4 Key Decisions by the Executive

Key decisions shall be taken by the Executive in accordance with the budget and policy framework agreed by Council. They are defined as decisions which:

- b) are significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards.

***There are car parks in Wokingham, Woodley, Twyford, Wargrave, Earley so it is a Key Decision.***

### 1.4.2 Principles of Decision Making

All decisions of the Council will be made in accordance with the following principles:

- b) due consultation

***The report suggests additional income of £500K in a full year through these exorbitant increases and removal of free parking. This is extremely substantial and should trigger a consultation with residents, affected businesses and organisations. There is a precedent which occurred the last time evening and Sunday charges were proposed in 2016. A full resident consultation was carried out for a month and incorporated into the officer's report for a meeting of the Executive on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016.***

- d) a presumption of openness

***There has been no warning about these proposals prior to the agenda being published for this meeting (see additional comments about the Forward Programme below).***

- f) when decisions are taken by the Executive, details of the options which were taken into account and the reasons for the decision will be recorded.

***Only one option was presented and no details of any other options considered has been presented in the report. There is no business case providing any details of what impact these changes will have on residents, affected businesses and organisations. What was the assumption on the "resistance" of residents to continue to use the car parks following such***

**dramatic increases. What is the estimate of footfall reduction causing a reduction in patronage of local shops and restaurants.**

#### **5.4.8 The Forward Programme**

A Forward Programme of Executive Business, covering a period of at least four months, will be published at least 28 clear days before a Key Decision is made. The Forward Programme will be agreed by the Leader, or in his absence by the Deputy Leader, each month and a copy will be provided to all Members and published on the Council's website. The Forward Programme will meet the requirements of the 28 day "notice" as set out in the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Meetings and Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012.

***This rule is quite specific that a copy of the monthly updated Forward Program should be PROVIDED TO ALL MEMBERS and published on the Council's website.***

***I have written confirmation from 25 Councillors that they received a copy of the Forward Programme on the 28<sup>th</sup> July 2022. They then received NO copies of the Forward program between the 29<sup>th</sup> July and the 23<sup>rd</sup> September.***

***This agenda item, was first introduced in the Forward Programme published on the Council's website on the September update published on the 25<sup>th</sup> August.***

***Unfortunately, as explained above the September update was not copied to at least 25 councillors. The first time they saw it was on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September. This means the "28 clear days before a Key Decision is made" part of the rule has been breached and therefore the Decision made on the 29<sup>th</sup> September cannot be valid.***

SIGNED

- 1) SIGNED  
PRINT NAME Anne Chadwick
- 2) SIGNED  
PRINT NAME BILL SOANE
- 3) SIGNED  
PRINT NAME SHAHID YOUNIS
- 4) SIGNED  
PRINT NAME MICHAEL FARMACON
- 5) SIGNED  
PRINT NAME ABDUL LOYES.