
Regeneration, Culture and Adult Education Scrutiny Committee – 8th June, 2011

Petition regarding parking in Dudley Town Centre

Report of the Director of Corporate Resources (as Petitions Officer)

Purpose of Report

1. To review the outcome of a petition regarding car parking provision in Dudley Town Centre.

Background

2. The Central Dudley Area Committee, at its meeting held on 18th January, 2011, considered the report set out in appendix 1 to this report, in the light of a petition of 1230 signatories seeking the reinstatement of car parking historically available and the provision of additional car parking provision in Dudley Town Centre, as indicated in the sample page of the petition attached to this report as Appendix 2.
3. The minute of the Committee is in the following terms:

74 **PETITION – CAR PARKING IN DUDLEY TOWN CENTRE**

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted responding to comments made in a petition concerning the lack of car parking provision in Dudley Town Centre.

The Petition Organisers and Ward Members addressed the Committee concerning the subject of the petition and asked officers to consider potential measures to address the petitioners concerns. The concerns included:-

- The lack of use of Stone Street Square further to its conversion from a car park;
- The insufficient amount of car parking provision within the Town Centre area; and
- An assertion by certain members that members of the public considered Flood Street and other car parks were too far from the Town Centre which discouraged customers from using the town.

Whilst acknowledging the concerns of the Petitioners, the Assistant Director (Environmental Management) commented on the regeneration plans for the Town Centre and also emphasised the need to promote public transport.

RESOLVED

That the content of the report be noted and that comments made be referred to the Directorate of the Urban Environment for further consideration.”

4. It has been established since the meeting of the Area Committee that the Directorate of the Urban Environment do not propose to report further on the issue.
5. Under the Petitions Scheme, a petition organiser not satisfied with the outcome of the Council's consideration of the petition may request a review of the outcome by the Council's relevant Scrutiny Committee. On being advised of the outcome, the petition organisers, Mr Scott and Mr Caswell, the proprietors of Roger Scott Menswear and the Fountain Arcade Toyshop, respectively, have indicated that they are not satisfied with the outcome in this case and have requested a review of the outcome.
6. Where a review has been requested, and the matter has been referred to a Scrutiny Committee, under the Petitions Scheme, the petition organiser(s) or his/her nominee and the Councillors for the Ward concerned are entitled to attend the meeting of the Select Committee and address it for up to 3 minutes each on why they consider that the outcome was inadequate. The Scrutiny Committee may not override any decision made but the decision maker (in this case the Director of the Urban Environment) must consider any recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committee.
7. Mr Scott and Mr Caswell have indicated their intention to attend and address the Committee.

Finance

8. The report to the Central Dudley Area Committee stated that, whereas the Council does generate income from car parking charges, there were no direct financial implications to the Council in relation to the report.

Law

9. Traffic Regulation Orders are made under powers contained in Section 1 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984.
10. The Council is empowered to improve highways under Section 62 of the Highways Act, 1980.
11. Section 111 of the Local Government Act, 1972 empowers the Council to do anything calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of any of its functions.
12. The Petitions Scheme was adopted by the Council in compliance with the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act, 2009.

Equality Impact

13. The proposals in this report comply with the Council's Equality and Diversity Policy. Children and young people have not been involved in the preparation of the report.

Recommendation

14. That the Select Committee review the outcome of this petition, in the light of representations of the petition organisers and Ward Councillors and, if they consider it appropriate, make a recommendation to Cabinet Member for Transportation.



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List of Background Papers

The report of the Director of the Urban Environment to the meeting of the Central Dudley Area Committee held on 18th January, 2011 regarding car parking provision in Dudley Town Centre.