

Open

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Agenda

6pm
Thursday, 1st December 2016
Council Chamber
Wyre Forest House
Finepoint Way
Kidderminster



Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Members of Committee:

Chairman: Councillor H E Dyke
Vice-Chairman: Councillor M Rayner

Councillor J R Desmond
Councillor N Gale
Councillor A T Hingley
Councillor S J Walker

Councillor P Dyke
Councillor K Henderson
Councillor D Little
Councillor S J Williams

Would Members please note that, to ensure continuity in scrutiny, substitutes should only be appointed for the Scrutiny Committee in exceptional circumstances.

Information for Members of the Public:

Part I of the Agenda includes items for discussion in public. You have the right to inspect copies of Minutes and reports on this Agenda as well as the background documents used in the preparation of these reports.

Part II of the Agenda (if applicable) deals with items of "Exempt Information" for which it is anticipated that the public may be excluded from the meeting and neither reports nor background papers are open to public inspection.

Declaration of Interests by Members – interests of members in contracts and other matters

Declarations of Interest are a standard item on every Council and Committee agenda and each Member must provide a full record of their interests in the Public Register.

In addition, alongside the Register of Interest, the Members Code of Conduct ("the Code") requires the Declaration of Interests at meetings. Members have to decide first whether or not they have a disclosable interest in the matter under discussion.

Please see the Members' Code of Conduct as set out in Section 14 of the Council's constitution for full details.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) / Other Disclosable Interest (ODI)

DPI's and ODI's are interests defined in the Code of Conduct that has been adopted by the District.

If you have a DPI (as defined in the Code) in a matter being considered at a meeting of the Council (as defined in the Code), the Council's Standing Orders require you to leave the room where the meeting is held, for the duration of any discussion or voting on that matter.

If you have an ODI (as defined in the Code) you will need to consider whether you need to leave the room during the consideration of the matter.

Co-opted Members

Scrutiny Committees may wish to appoint Co-Opted Members to sit on their committee in order to add value to the scrutiny process. To appoint a Co-Opted Member, a Committee must first agree to appoint either a specific person or to approach a relevant organisation to request that they put forward a suitable representative (e.g. the local Police Authority). Co-Optees are non voting by default but Committees can decide to appoint voting rights to a Co-Optee. The Co-Option of the Member will last no longer than the remainder of the municipal year.

Scrutiny Committees can at any meeting agree to terminate the Co-Option of a Co-Opted Member with immediate effect. Where an organisation is appointed to put forward a Co-Opted Member, they are able to send a substitute in exceptional circumstances, provided that they notify Democratic Services in advance. Co-Opted Members must sign up to the Members Code of Conduct before attending their first meeting, failure to sign will mean that they are unable to participate. This also applies to substitute Co-Opted Members, who will need to allow sufficient time before a meeting in order to sign the Code of Conduct.

The following will apply:

- i) The total number of voting co-opted members on any Scrutiny Committee will not exceed 25% at any one time.
- ii) The total number of voting Co-opted Members on any Review Panel will not be limited.
- iii) Those Co-opted Members with voting rights will exercise their rights in accordance with the principles of decision making set out in the constitution.

For Further information:

If you have any queries about this Agenda or require any details of background papers, further documents or information, you should contact Louisa Bright, Principal Committee and Member Services Officer, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster, DY11 7WF. Telephone: 01562 732763 or email louisa.bright@wyreforestdc.gov.uk

Wyre Forest District Council
Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Thursday, 1st December 2016

Council Chamber, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster

Part 1

Open to the press and public

Agenda item	Subject	Page Number
1.	Apologies for Absence	
2.	Appointment of Substitute Members To receive the name of any Councillor who is to act as a substitute, together with the name of the Councillor for whom he/she is acting.	
3.	Declarations of Interests by Members In accordance with the Code of Conduct, to invite Members to declare the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI's) and / or Other Disclosable Interests (ODI's) in the following agenda items and indicate the action that they will be taking when the item is considered. Please see the Members' Code of Conduct as set out in Section 14 of the Council's Constitution for full details.	
4.	Minutes To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd November 2016.	6
5.	Car Parking Review To consider a report from the Director of Community Well-being and Environment on the review of the approach to car parking designation and charges as part of initial work on the financial strategy.	11
6.	Wyre Forest District Buskers Code To consider a report from the Town Centres Manager which invites the Committee to consider a new policy to regulate buskers across the district.	23
7.	Feedback from Cabinet To note the content of the Cabinet action list, following consideration of the recommendations from its meeting on 22 nd November 2016 (to follow).	-

8.	Work Programme To review the work programme for the current municipal year with regard to the Sustainable Community Strategy Theme, Corporate Plan Priority, Annual Priorities and the Forward Plan.	27
9.	Press Involvement To consider any future items for scrutiny that might require publicity.	
10.	To consider any other business, details of which have been communicated to the Solicitor of the Council before the commencement of the meeting, which the Chairman by reason of special circumstances considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting.	
11.	Exclusion of the Press and Public To consider passing the following resolution: “That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of “exempt information” as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act”.	

Part 2

Not open to the Press and Public

12.	To consider any other business, details of which have been communicated to the Solicitor of the Council before the commencement of the meeting, which the Chairman by reason of special circumstances considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting.	
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WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER

THURSDAY, 3RD NOVEMBER 2016 (6PM)

Present:

Councillors: H E Dyke (Chairman), M Rayner (Vice-Chairman), J Baker, N Gale, K Henderson, A T Hingley, D Little, F M Oborski MBE, S J Walker and S J Williams.

Observers

Councillors: S J Chambers, N J Desmond, S E Fearn, I Hardiman, M J Hart, N Knowles and S Miah.

OS.37 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: J R Desmond and P Dyke.

Appointment of Substitutes

Councillor J Baker was appointed as a substitute for Councillor J R Desmond.
Councillor F M Oborski MBE was appointed as a substitute for Councillor P Dyke.

OS.38 Declarations of Interests by Members

No declarations of interest were made.

OS.39 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 8th September 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

OS.40 How Are We Doing? Performance Update

The Committee received a report from the Head of Transformation and Communications which updated Members on the performance of the Council for quarter 2 (from 1st July to 30th September 2016).

Councillor S J Chambers entered the meeting at this point (6.04pm).

Members were led through the report and considered each page of the appendices in turn. In relation to WFF 16/17 19 – Kidderminster Town Centre Public Realm Framework, several questions were asked about the final snagging list of minor outstanding works. The Head of Transformation and Communications was asked to arrange for responses to the questions from the Economic Regeneration Team to be circulated to Members of the Committee.

Councillor S Miah entered the meeting at this point (6.15pm).

In response to a Member question about the Stage 3 Safety Audit undertaken on 6th October 2016, the Leader of the Council confirmed that additional signage within Exchange Street was being considered and there was a proposal for double yellow lines to be included along Oxford Street.

Agreed: The progress in performance for quarter 2 be noted.

OS.41

**Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy
Mid-year Review Report 2016/17**

The Committee received a report from the Chief Financial Officer and Principal Accountant which provided Members with a mid-year review of the Council's treasury management policies, practices and activities in accordance with the revised CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice.

Councillor J Baker left the meeting at 6.18pm and returned at 6.20pm.

The Chief Financial Officer led Members through the report and advised that this was the second of 3 statutory reports which would be presented to the Committee in the current municipal year.

Councillor I Hardiman entered the meeting at this point, (6.26pm).

The Chief Financial Officer was pleased to report that there had been no breaches to report and all treasury management activities adhered to the Council's low risk investment strategy. In response to a Member question regarding the remaining Icelandic investments, she confirmed that final repayments were expected within the next 12 to 18 months.

The Chairman of the Treasury Management Review Panel, Councillor F M Oborski (MBE), advised that the report had been fully scrutinised by the Panel at its meeting on 2nd November, and moved the recommendations for approval. Councillor Oborski reminded Members that the next Treasury Management Training Session, which is carried out by the Council's Treasury Management Advisors, Capita, was scheduled to take place on 1st February 2017 and urged all Members to attend.

Agreed: In line with the recommendations from the Treasury Management Review Panel, the Treasury Management Mid-year Review be noted.

Recommend to Council:

The Treasury Management Mid-year Review and updated Prudential Indicators be approved.

OS.42

Council Tax Reduction Scheme Review 2017/18

The Committee considered a report from the Revenues, Benefits and Customer Services Manager which invited Members to provide recommendations to the Cabinet as part of the public consultation of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme review for 2017/18.

The Revenues, Benefits and Customer Services Manager led Members through the report and advised that due to the national changes to Housing Benefit and Universal Credit as part of the Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016 that affect the authorities Council Tax Reduction Scheme, a public consultation started on 5th October to seek views on the proposal to align the current scheme with Housing Benefit and Universal Credit for new applicants from April 2017.

The Cabinet Member for Transformation and Change explained that aligning the schemes would assist with reducing confusion for customers and would reduce the cost of the scheme to the Council in respect of new claimants. She thanked the Benefits Manager for helping her understand the complex schemes.

Agreed: Recommend to Cabinet:

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee agree to the proposed changes to the scheme.

OS.43 Report on the Worcestershire Partnership Plan

The Committee considered a report from the Strategic Housing Services Manager on the Worcestershire Housing Partnership Plan that had been developed by the Strategic Housing Partnership and was currently out to a 10 week consultation.

Recommend to Cabinet:

- 1. The draft Partnership Plan be published for consultation until the 31st December 2016.**
- 2. Wyre Forest District Council signs up to the Worcestershire Memorandum of Understanding.**

Councillor M J Hart left the meeting at 7.04pm and returned at 7.06pm

OS.44 Alternative Temporary Accommodation Provision

The Committee considered a report from the Strategic Housing Services Manager which detailed a proposal to deliver alternative temporary accommodation provision for households who are in housing need or homeless within a Council owned empty property.

The Strategic Housing Services Manager led Members through the report and highlighted the sources of capital for the project, which included £50,000 from the Council's Evergreen Investment Fund.

The Members welcomed the proposal and agreed that the scheme would enable the Council to control the quality of emergency accommodation within the District.

Agreed: Recommend to Cabinet:

The provision of alternative temporary accommodation at 2-3 New Street, Stourport, be approved.

OS.45 Wyre Forest District Local Plan Review: Revised Local Development Scheme (Project Plan 2016 - 2019)

The Committee considered a report from the Interim Planning Policy Manager which set out the key proposed changes to the Council's current Local Development Scheme (June 2016).

The Director of Economic Prosperity and Place presented the report and advised that the revised Project Plan would provide a realistic programme on which to focus the Council's objectives for development planning over the next three year period.

The Chairman of the Local Plans Review Panel, Councillor F M Oborski MBE, advised that the report had been fully scrutinised and endorsed by the Local Plans Review Panel at their meeting on 31st October 2016.

Agreed: Recommend to Cabinet:

The proposed Revised Local Development Scheme 2016-19 (November 2016) as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, be adopted.

OS.46 Feedback from Cabinet

Agreed: The content of the Cabinet decision list following consideration of the recommendations from its meeting on 13th September 2016 be noted.

OS.47 Work Programme

The Committee considered the work programme for the remainder of the municipal year. The Chairman advised Officers that the scheduled meeting dates could be moved, with the agreement of the Committee, if required to accommodate any items which fall out of the usual cycle of meetings. Members were reminded to submit any suggestions for future scrutiny items to the Chairman.

Agreed: The work programme be noted.

OS.48 Press Involvement

There were no future items for scrutiny that might require publicity.

OS.49 Exempt Information

Decision: Under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of "Exempt Information" as defined in paragraphs 2, 6 and 7 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

OS.50 Industrial Units Investment Business Case

The Committee received an exempt report from the Head of Economic Development and Regeneration - North Worcestershire, which detailed a proposal

for the Council to purchase new industrial units.

Members welcomed the proposal which was in line with the Council's recently adopted Strategic Asset Management Plan and Enterprise and Business Growth Strategy.

Agreed: Recommend to Cabinet:

The proposal to purchase land, at the site identified in the exempt report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and subsequent construction of industrial units be approved, subject to the production of a satisfactory full business case.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 7.33pm.



Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Briefing Paper

Report of: Linda Draycott
Director of Community Well-being and Environment
Date: 1st December 2016
Open

Car parking review

1. Summary

- 1.1 Income generated from car parking represents a significant contribution to external income for the Council at just over £1 million in 2015/16. It is the most significant source of self-generated income after council tax.
- 1.2 Cabinet Members and officers have been reviewing the approach to car parking designation and charges as part of initial work on the financial strategy and discussions have been held with the Cabinet to design proposals for implementation in October 2017.
- 1.3 It is intended that any revised arrangements would be considered and approved at the Cabinet meeting in December 2016, following consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.4 The proposals were considered by the Cabinet Financial Strategy Advisory Panel on 14 November 2016.

2. Background

- 2.1 The current system of designation of car parks and charging structures is now too complicated, both for users and for the Council itself. The concept of inner/outer/central and rural was entirely right for the time 2010, which sought to simplify a set of arrangements and charges that had not been holistically reviewed for many years.
- 2.2 Any changes should therefore **simplify** the existing system of car parking and parking charges across the District while achieving an increase in net income for the Council, to help close the gap in the medium term financial strategy. It is important that any changes maintain a fair, equitable and consistent approach across the District.
- 2.3 They should address the challenge of a reduction in parking places with the disposal of Stourport Leisure Centre and the reduced usage at Bromsgrove Street as a result of closure of the Glades and also the transfer of Stadium Close to Kidderminster Harriers

Football Club and the sale of part of Vale Rd. These changes have reduced the available spaces however; this is partially mitigated by an extra 50 spaces in Load Street.

3. Key Issues

- 3.1 In order to modernise revenue collection, the full range of payment methods needs to be deployed at each location. The suggestions set out below are estimated to produce a positive contribution to the Council's finances estimated at approximately £70-75k a year.(inclusive of a 4% fee increase)
- 3.2 Consideration has been given to the current system for free parking in the District. The existing arrangements are attached in Appendix 4. These free parking offers were introduced to support regeneration initiatives within each town and encourage greater footfall for businesses and retail, in particular at times when there was no market. Whilst there has been some impact on regeneration the overall desired effect has not been wholly achieved particularly in the 10am- 4pm parking offer on town days. This has seen workers based within the towns taking advantage of the free parking for a substantial part of the day rather than encouraging new footfall and turnover in the specific car parks.
- 3.3 The importance of maintaining a free parking offer remains an important element of these proposals and therefore free parking for 1 hour will be available in 7 car parks across the District. This increases the current offer by one car park. The data on free parking tickets is appended at Appendix 5, showing that in a full year over 122,000 tickets were taken free parking offers. Consideration has been given to the proximity of these car parks to the new short stay car parks so that any risk of people returning to their cars and putting another free ticket on can be mitigated.

4. Options

- 4.1 The arrangements proposed for free parking are as follows:
- No change to free parking for blue badge holders;
 - Free one hour only in designated long stay car parks, seven days a week. (**Kidderminster** - Bromsgrove St, St Mary's, Comberton Hill, Blakedown, Castle Rd, **Bewdley** – Gardeners Meadow, **Stourport** – Vale Rd)
 - Free after 4pm in **all car parks** for Christmas/New Year period.
 - The 10am- 4pm town day free car parking arrangements ceases

Suggested approach – car parks

Introduce a universally recognised and familiar car parking system of **SHORT** and **LONG** stay designated car parks in **each** town with effect from October 2017.

The charges would be uniform and applicable to **all** car parks **only** limited by the maximum length of stay as follows:-

Designation	Kidderminster	Bewdley	Stourport
Short Stay Up to 2 hrs	Market Street (central)	Load St (central)	Raven St (central) Bridge St (central)
Long Stay Up to 48hrs *Free parking for one hour, 7 days a week	Bromsgrove St (inner)* Pike Mills (inner) Aldi (inner) Bateman's Yard (inner) St Mary's (outer)* Comberton Hill (outer)* Blakedown (rural)* Castle Rd (outer)*	Dog Lane(inner) Gardners' Meadow (outer)*	Severn Meadows 1,2 3 (inner/seasonal) Riverside (seasonal - temporary) Vale Rd (outer)*

Introduce pay by phone on all car parks

Upgrade all machines that do not already take card payments to do so

Introduce six charging bands – up to 1 hr, up to 2hrs, up to 3 hrs, 3 - 6 hrs, 6 – 24 hrs and 24 – 48 hrs and dispense with the current categorisation on central, seasonal, inner, outer and rural.

Free one hour parking in designated Long Stay car parks, 7 days a week. New signage to clarify that this is for one hour's parking only, no return within 1 hour and a free ticket must be obtained, as now. Any stay longer than one hour requires purchase of a ticket.

Suggested approach – charging

This represents an increase of 4% on October 2016 charges.

PARKING MADE SIMPLE	SHORT STAY CAR PARKS	LONG STAY CAR PARKS
Free 1 hour parking	N/A	Applicable on designated long stay car parks
Up to 1 hour	£1.30	£1.30
Up to 2 hours	£1.90	£1.90
Up to 3 hours	N/A	£2.70
3 – 6 hours	N/A	£4.40
6 -24 hours	N/A	£6.60
24 – 48 hours	N/A	£8.80

A summary of the existing charges, including already implemented increases in October 2016 is attached in appendix 1

A summary of existing charges and the new proposed charges is attached in appendix 2

Appendix 3 details the nearest neighbour benchmarking fees.

5. SEASON TICKETS

5.1 The arrangements for full and restricted season tickets have also been reviewed. There are no plans to remove the senior citizen season ticket. At present all Full and Senior Citizen tickets can be used in any car park. Restricted passes can be used only on outer car parks, Load Street and Dog Lane. Income from season ticket sales was £102,000 in 2014/15 and £120,000 in 2015/16.

5.2 Current Season ticket charges and proposed charges are as follows:-

Season Ticket		Charges 2016/17	Proposed charges from 1/10/17
FULL	1 month	£74	£78
	6 months	£352	£370
	12 months	£640	£672
RESTRICTED	1 month	£37	£39
	6 months	£176	£185
	12 months	£320	£336
SENIOR CITIZEN	6 months	£88	£93
	12 months	£160	£168

5.3 Season ticket sales for 2014/15 are as follows:-

2014/15	Sales
Full	
1 Month	36
12 Months	21
6 Months	18
Restricted	
1 Month	163
12 Months	83
6 Months	74
Senior Citizen	
12 Months	239
6 Months	24

5.4 The proposals for season tickets are:-

- Retain Full and Restricted passes, as at present - 1 month, 6 month and 12 month passes
- Retain Senior Citizens passes
- Simplify for customers
- Introduce an online digital service for all customers
- Improve administration and data collection
- Maintain current income generation or exceed it but **do not** damage it
- No major or radical changes that may confuse or attract undue criticism from current users
- Review payment by Direct Debit for Full passes to close loopholes whereby a full pass is issued and DD payments are cancelled by the customer. The proposal would require 50% payment up front and then DD for the remainder. This would help prevent potential fraudulent use of passes
- Maintain the current discounting regime (50% of full pass price for a restricted pass and 50% of restricted pass for Senior Citizens)
- Address the anomalies and complications with senior citizens pass and align with “pensionable age” as the single criteria
- Uplift fees by 5% annually in line with current practice i.e. in October each year

5.5 New rules – season tickets

Full and Senior Citizen tickets would be valid in **ALL** car parks as now.

Restricted tickets would be valid in designated Long Stay car parks which are in red print below.

Load Street has become a short stay car park and therefore would no longer be appropriate for use with a restricted pass.

Agenda Item No. 5

Severn Meadows 1 would be added to the long stay car parks where a restricted pass can be used

The concept “car park specific” passes was reviewed, however, it is not proposed to introduce this as part of these proposals due to the anticipated increase in administration and monitoring from an operational perspective. The proposals seek to minimise any disruption on major changes to the current system.

Proposed Designation	Kidderminster	Bewdley	Stourport	Season Ticket Proposals
Short Stay Up to 2 hrs	Market Street	Load St	Raven St Bridge St	Full Season Ticket and Senior Citizen
Long Stay Up to 48hrs *Free parking for 1 hour , 7 days a week	Bromsgrove St* Pike Mills Aldi Bateman’s Yard St Mary’s* Comberton Hill* Castle Rd* Blakedown*	Dog Lane Gardners’ Meadow*	Severn Meadows 1, 2, 3 Vale Rd*	Full Season Ticket and Senior Citizen Restricted Tickets as per current system (in red long stay car parks only)

6. Consultation

- 6.1 The proposals were considered by the Cabinet Financial Strategy Advisory Panel on 14 November 2016.

7. Relevant Council Policies/Strategies

- 7.1 Subject to the proposals forming part of the fees and charges for 2017 and the future arrangements being confirmed, any necessary amendments will be made to the Parking Places Order

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 As noted above, the suggestions secure a net increase in income in the region of £70k - £75k inclusive of the proposed 4% charges increase. The charges introduced at the beginning of October 2016 are estimated to grow net income by about 3.8% - note: this is despite a 5% increase in tariff at Oct 2016 working against a reduction in car parking demand due to the closure of the Glades and Stourport Leisure Centres. The suggested approach might lead to a further increase in income in the range of about 6.4% in the full year from October 2017 which is c3% higher than a standard 5% increase in tariff in October 2016 would yield.

- 8.2 Equalities: The proposals do not have any adverse impact on any of the protected characteristics. Due consideration will be given to maintaining fully accessible parking facilities and payment methods and improving signage.

9. Equality Impact Needs Assessment

- 9.1 An initial screening has been undertaken and there are no impacts on the protected characteristics groups that have been identified.

10. Wards affected

- 10.1 These proposals affect all wards across the District.

11. Appendices

- 11.1 Existing Charges 2015/16
- 11.2 Comparing 2016/17 charges to proposed charges
- 11.3 Benchmarking Worcestershire nearest neighbours
- 11.4 Existing free parking arrangements
- 11.5 Free parking data

Officer Contact Details:

Name Linda Draycott
Title Director CWE
Contact Number 01562 732900

Appendix 1

Existing Charges 2015/16 – current day

		Existing		
		WFDC		
		2015/16	Up to Sept 2016	As from Oct 2016
Free up to 1 hour	Outer	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Free up to 1.5 hours Sun	Outer	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
up to 1 hour	Rural	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
30 mins	Central	£1.00	£1.00	£1.00
up to 1 hr	Central	£1.50	£1.50	£1.60
Up to 1 hr	Inner	£1.10	£1.10	£1.20
up to 2 hours	Seasonal	£1.50	£2.00	£2.10
up to 2 hours	Inner	£1.40	£1.50	£1.60
up to 2 hours	Outer	£1.40	£1.40	£1.50
up to 2 hours	Rural	£0.80	£0.80	£0.90
up to 3 hours	Seasonal	£2.50	£5.00	£5.20
up to 3 hours	Inner	£2.30	£2.50	£2.60
up to 3 hours	Outer	£2.30	£2.30	£2.40
2 to 24 hours	Rural	£3.00	£3.00	£3.10
3 to 6 hours				
3 to 24 hours	Seasonal	£4.80	£5.00	£5.20
3 to 24 hours	Inner	£3.80	£4.80	£5.00
3 to 24 hours	Outer	£3.80	£3.80	£4.00
6 to 24 hours				
24 to 48 hours	Seasonal	£9.60	£10.00	£10.40
24 to 48 hours	Inner	£7.60	£9.60	£10.00
24 to 48 hours	Outer	£7.60	£7.60	£8.00
24 to 48 hours	Rural	£6.00	£6.00	£6.30

Appendix 2

Comparing 2016/17 charges to proposed charges
Free 1 hour parking on designated car parks only

		Existing		Suggestion
		WFDC		
		Up to Sept 2016	As from Oct 2016	
Free up to 1 hour	Outer	£0.00	£0.00	Free
Free up to 1.5 hours Sun	Outer	£0.00	£0.00	
up to 1 hour	Rural	£0.00	£0.00	
30 mins	Central	£1.00	£1.00	£1.30 Short
up to 1 hr	Central	£1.50	£1.60	
Up to 1 hr	Inner	£1.10	£1.20	
up to 2 hours	Seasonal	£2.00	£2.10	£1.90 Short
up to 2 hours	Inner	£1.50	£1.60	
up to 2 hours	Outer	£1.40	£1.50	
up to 2 hours	Rural	£0.80	£0.90	
up to 3 hours	Seasonal	£5.00	£5.20	£2.70 Long
up to 3 hours	Inner	£2.50	£2.60	
up to 3 hours	Outer	£2.30	£2.40	
2 to 24 hours	Rural	£3.00	£3.10	
3 to 6 hours				£4.40 Long
3 to 24 hours	Seasonal	£5.00	£5.20	
3 to 24 hours	Inner	£4.80	£5.00	
3 to 24 hours	Outer	£3.80	£4.00	
6 to 24 hours				£6.60 Long
24 to 48 hours	Seasonal	£10.00	£10.40	£8.80 Long
24 to 48 hours	Inner	£9.60	£10.00	£8.80 Long
24 to 48 hours	Outer	£7.60	£8.00	£8.80 Long
24 to 48 hours	Rural	£6.00	£6.30	£8.80 Long

Appendix 3

Benchmarking – Worcestershire nearest neighbours

		WFDC	Benchmark 2016/17 prices		
		As from Oct 2016	Worcester	Malvern	Wychavon
Free up to 1 hour	Outer	£0.00	£0.60	£0.50	£1.00
Free up to 1.5 hours Sun	Outer	£0.00	£1.20	£1.00	£1.00
up to 1 hour	Rural	£0.00	£0.60	£0.50	£1.00
30 mins	Central	£1.00	£0.60	£0.50	£0.50
up to 1 hr	Central	£1.60	£1.20	£0.50	£1.00
Up to 1 hr	Inner	£1.20	£1.80	£1.00	£2.00
up to 2 hours	Seasonal	£2.10	£1.80	£1.00	£2.00
up to 2 hours	Inner	£1.60	£1.80	£1.00	£2.00
up to 2 hours	Outer	£1.50	£1.20	£1.00	£1.00
up to 2 hours	Rural	£0.90	£1.80	£1.00	£2.00
up to 3 hours	Seasonal	£5.20	£2.70	£2.00	£3.00
up to 3 hours	Inner	£2.60	£2.70	£2.00	£3.00
up to 3 hours	Outer	£2.40	£1.80	£2.00	£2.00
2 to 24 hours	Rural	£3.10	£3.50	£3.00	£4.00
3 to 24 hours	Seasonal	£5.20	£6.00	£3.00	£4.00
3 to 24 hours	Inner	£5.00	£6.00	£3.00	£4.00
3 to 24 hours	Outer	£4.00	£3.50	£3.00	£3.00
24 to 48 hours	Seasonal	£10.40	£12.00	£9.00	£8.00
24 to 48 hours	Inner	£10.00	£12.00	£9.00	£8.00
24 to 48 hours	Outer	£8.00	£7.00	£9.00	£6.00
24 to 48 hours	Rural	£6.30	£7.00	£9.00	£8.00

Appendix 4

Free Parking as at October 2016

Free parking is available between 10.00am and 4.00pm on the following car parks on certain days:

- Bromsgrove Street, Kidderminster on **Wednesdays**
- Gardners Meadow, Bewdley on **Thursdays**
- Severn Meadows 1 (behind the Civic Centre), Stourport on **Thursdays**

The following car parks also offer **free parking for 1 hour** Mon-Sat, 90 minutes on Sunday:

- Castle Road, Kidderminster
- Comberton Hill, Kidderminster
- St Mary's, Kidderminster
- Gardners Meadow, Bewdley
- Vale Road, Stourport

Other car parks:

- Blakedown - Free for 1 hour
- Broadwaters Park - Free all day

There is also extensive free “on street” parking across the District.

Appendix 5

Tariffs Machines	Total		First free Hour		Free Day		Xmas after 4:00	
	Tickets	Cash	Tickets	Cash	Tickets	Cash	Tickets	Cash
AL1 - Aldi	209	£0.00	0	0	0	0	209	0
AV1 - The Avenue	2055	£0.00	2055	0	0	0	0	0
BR1 - Bromsgrove Street	4960	£0.00	0	0	1247	0	3713	0
BR2 - Bromsgrove Street	11029	£0.00	0	0	3180	0	7849	0
BR3 - Bromsgrove Street	3729	£0.00	0	0	1062	0	2667	0
BS1 - Bridge St	42	£0.00	0	0	0	0	42	0
BY1 - Batemans Yard	127	£0.00	0	0	0	0	127	0
CP1 - Comberton Pl	16183	£0.00	14587	0	0	0	1596	0
CR1 - Castle Road	1056	£0.00	895	0	0	0	161	0
DL1 - Dog Lane	141	£0.00	0	0	0	0	141	0
DL2 - Dog Lane	78	£0.00	0	0	0	0	78	0
GM1 - Gardners Meadow	36622	£0.00	28605	0	7059	0	958	0
LS1 - Load Street	183	£0.00	0	0	0	0	183	0
MS1 - Market Street	145	£0.00	0	0	0	0	145	0
MS2 - Market Street	66	£0.00	0	0	0	0	66	0
PM1 - Pike Mills	802	£0.00	0	0	0	0	802	0
RS1 - Raven Street	151	£0.00	0	0	0	0	151	0
SC1 - Sports Centre	21876	£0.00	17354	0	0	0	4522	0
SM1 - Severn Meadows	0	£0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0
SM2 - Severn Meadows	0	£0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0
SM3 - Severn Meadows	0	£0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0
ST1 - St Marys	6059	£0.00	5270	0	0	0	789	0
VR1 - Vale Road	16679	£0.00	14213	0	0	0	2466	0
Total	122192	0	82979	0	12548	0	26665	0
			67.91%		10.27%		21.82%	



Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Briefing Paper

Report of: Town Centres Manager

Date: Thursday 1st December 2016

Wyre Forest District Buskers Code

1. Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to invite the committee to consider a new policy to regulate buskers across the district (principally in Kidderminster Town Centre) and to make recommendations to the Cabinet.

2. Background

- 2.1 Kidderminster is beginning to attract buskers and officers understand that this trend will continue as the town is further redeveloped and the retail offering begins to draw customers with more disposable income. Presently, the Council does not have a policy to manage and regulate buskers which means that there could be an increase in the number and type of buskers going forward unless a specific policy is developed.

3. Key Issues

- 3.1 Buskers can add positively to the atmosphere and ambience of a town and the Council should encourage good quality performers who behave responsibly, but this is dependent upon there being clear, uncomplicated parameters within which they can perform. They can enhance the town centre offer and attract more visitors to the town, thus supporting the Council's ambitions to improve vitality and enhance viability of the retail offer.
- 3.2 The main issue here is disturbance when *amplified* entertainment is played too loud, too long and too near to business premises. The Town Centres Manager has recently received complaints from T H Baker and the Swan Centre about very loud buskers performing for too long outside their premises, which has the effect of deterring would be customers from visiting their premises and disturbing the overall ambience of the town centre

At present the Town Centre Manager, or any other officer, has no specifically defined framework to deal with this when a complaint arises. The Town Centre Manager can only approach the busker and request them to reduce the sound level. This sometimes works but, on 4 November 2016, the Police

had to arrest a busker who was causing an obstruction in Kidderminster and became abusive and violent when asked to desist. We have recently been informed that 2 retailers have left Worcester City centre, citing disturbance from buskers as the principal reason. In Stratford-upon-Avon, despite a lengthy, complicated 'code of practice' the situation is still difficult to control. The Council is obviously keen to ensure that this kind of situation is not allowed to arise in Kidderminster Town Centre or elsewhere in the district.

- 3.3 There are historic By-laws (Street Behaviour Regulations: Kidderminster 1897, Bewdley 1907) which prohibit excessive gatherings and the playing of loud music but these are impractical to use as enforcement tools in the immediacy of a situation where a busker is creating problems. The official adoption of a Buskers Code will create the necessary visible framework for the Town Centres Manager who will still have recourse to the by-laws if that should become necessary.
- 3.4 There is also the following anomaly. When the Town Centres Manager, or other officers, plan to put on entertainments, markets, Christmas festivities or similar events, this has to be done strictly within the confines of a Premises Licence or Temporary Event Notice. Risk Assessments have to be undertaken, insurance cover confirmed etc. Buskers by contrast can just turn up, take up a position and play. Therefore, it is recommended that the Buskers Code is formally adopted by the Council to ensure that a framework can be put into place and to avoid any inappropriate or unsustainable increase in buskers across the district. Buskers will be expected to conform to the code adopted by the Council and thus recourse will be provided for the Town Centres Manager or any other responsible officer, where the busker is not adhering to the specific parameters as laid out in the code.
- 3.5 It should be stressed that the Council is not seeking to stop buskers from setting up in the towns, but rather to control and monitor the type of buskers that arrive and ensure that they do meet quality standards and act as 'good neighbours' to our existing businesses, traders and residents. The Council should seek to drive up the quality of all forms of entertainment and events that take place within the district, particularly in Kidderminster Town Centre and particularly given the recent £2m investment in new public realm and street furniture.

4. Options

- 4.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is invited to consider the attached code and recommend to the Cabinet that it forms the guidance the Council puts in place for Buskers or:
- 4.2 To recommend to Cabinet any amendments that should be made to the proposal.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Corporate Leadership Team
- 5.2 Cabinet Member for Planning & Economic Regeneration.

6. Equality Impact Needs Assessment

- 6.1 There are no issues to be addressed.

7. Wards affected

- 7.1 All, but mainly Town Centres.

8. Appendices

Appendix 1- Wyre Forest District Buskers' Code

9. Background Papers

Officer Contact Details:

Name: Peter Michael
Title: Town Centres Manager
Contact Number: 01562-732534

Appendix 1

Wyre Forest District Buskers Code

Welcome to Wyre Forest. The purpose of this code is to offer buskers the opportunity to make a positive contribution to the atmosphere of the 3 towns and ensure that performances are appreciated by residents, shoppers and traders.

Pursuant to those objectives, buskers must appreciate that, whilst they are allowed to perform and collect money without licensing fees, shops and other businesses have to pay significant rents and business rates. Local businesses create employment in the towns and the Council has an obligation to ensure that the atmosphere is conducive to successful and profitable trading.

1. To perform in Wyre Forest Town Centres you need to contact the Town Centres Manager (01562-732534) and give your details. ***You do not need to fill in any forms; verbal permission will usually be given over the telephone provided you meet the following criteria:-***

2. If you wish to perform acoustically *i.e. without amplification*, you will usually be given permission immediately.

3. If you use amplification, the Town Centres Manager will wish to check that your amplification is not too loud (this follows complaints from shopkeepers). You may not continue performing until the level of amplification has been checked.

If you use amplification - ,

- Your performance must be inaudible from a distance of 30 metres.
- If you are asked to lower the volume by a Police or Council officer or a local business in the vicinity then you must do so immediately *and we will not allow arguments over this*
- If you refuse to reduce the volume to a reasonable level on request then the Council or the Police may have recourse to the by-laws

4. Ensure that you are not creating an obstruction. If you use a box or hat for collecting money it must not be more than 75cm from your feet and must not carry any message soliciting donations other than the words "thank you"

5. You may not perform in the same spot for more than 1 hour and you must then move at least 50 metres away. You must not perform within 50 metres of another busker.

6. Buskers must demonstrate a reasonable level of musical competence. Judgement will be made as to whether someone is a genuine busker or a beggar posing as one.

7. Buskers should not perform in a manner which, in the opinion of a Police Officer or Council Officer, is dangerous or offensive or likely to cause alarm.

8. We aim to develop an ongoing friendly relationship with talented and professional buskers who will abide by these rules. There may be opportunities for good buskers to perform at Council events for which payment would be made.

If you have any questions please contact the Town Centres Manager on 01562-732435 or 07779-629116 or peter.michael@wyreforestdc.gov.uk

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2016-2017

June 2016

“How are we doing?” Q4 update (Housing and Planning)
Tracking Recommendations from 2015-2016
Temporary Accommodation Policy
A Strategy for Enabling Business Growth and Enterprise
Local Development Scheme

July 2016

Nominations for the Treasury Management Review Panel
Housing Assistance Policy
Kidderminster Eastern Gateway Development Framework

September 2016

“How are we doing?” Q1 update (Enabling)
Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy Backward Look 2015/16
Section 106 Obligations Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)
Health Action Plan
Climate Change Action Plan
Recommendations from S106 Monies Review Panel
DFG's Presentation
Safer West Mercia Plan Consultation

October 2016 – Cancelled

November 2016

“How are we doing?” Q2 update (Business and People)
Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy Mid Year Report 2016/17
Council Tax Reduction Scheme Review 2017/18
Report on the Worcestershire Partnership Plan
Alternative Temporary Accommodation Provision
Wyre Forest District Local Plan Review: Revised Local Development Scheme (Project Plan 2016 - 2019)
EXEMPT - Industrial Units Investment Business Case

December 2016

Review of District Car Parks 2016
Town Centres Busking Policy

January 2017

Disposal of Land at Lion Fields

February 2017

Treasury Management Service Strategy 2017/18
“How are we doing?” Q3 update (Place)

March 2017

Annual Crime & Disorder Review
Worcestershire Housing Partnership Plan

April 2017