



**NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**26 JANUARY 2015**

**BRIEFING NOTE: O&S PARKING WORKING GROUP**

**1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 At its meeting on Monday 10 November 2014, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee set up the Parking Working Group.
- 1.2 Membership of the Working Group comprises:

Councillor Brian Sargeant (Chair)  
Councillors Tony Ansell, Rufia Ashraf, Mick Ford and Brendan Glynane

**2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 A motion was unanimously carried at full Council on 27 October 2014:

“This Council recognises the exceptional parking problems that residents and tenants regularly encounter in St James as a result of match day parking. But the problems in St James are not only match day parking. The people coming into St James taking up residents’ and tenants spaces include people coming into the area to work and some people parking at the flats and walking to the station to avoid the parking charges there. This council therefore resolves to do the following:

1. Look into the possibility of issuing tenants in NBC homes that have allocated parking areas with free parking permits. The properties considered would be: Cordwainer House, Stitchman House, Stirup House, Lapstone House, Eyeletter House, Abbey House, Melbourne House, Devonshire House, although this list is not exhaustive. This measure would ensure that premium allocated parking is not occupied by people from the outside area. This should be supplemented with sufficient enforcement to tackle inappropriately and incorrectly parked vehicles.

2. This council also agrees to consult with Northamptonshire County Council, the Police and Highways to look at the possibility of extending free parking permits into other parts of St James, Upton, Duston and other parts of the town which may then replace the current parking permit scheme which is presently under review and thus remove the need to financially penalise the people of St James simply because people from the outside area come to park in St James, as a successful sports club is located on their door step.
3. This Council resolves to ask the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to carry out a detailed investigation to look at these options for Cabinet to consider.”

2.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to undertake a short, sharp review and convened a Working Group as detailed in paragraph 1.2) to undertake this piece of Scrutiny work.

### **3 CONCLUSIONS**

3.1 The Parking Working Group set its scope at its inaugural meeting on 3 December 2014, the purpose being:

To undertake a review, to gain a better understanding of residential parking problems, as detailed in motion that was unanimously carried at full Council on 27 October 2014. In doing this, the Working Group will:

- Investigate the possibility and viability of issuing tenants in NBC homes (including Corwainer House, Stitchman House, Stirup House, Lapstone House, Eyeletter House, Abbey House, Melbourne House, Devonshire House) that have allocated parking areas with free parking permits.
- Investigate the possibility and viability of extending free parking permits to other parts of St James, Upton, Duston and other parts of the town.

3.2 In discussing the rationale for the review, the Working Group felt that the required outcomes should be:

- An understanding of the residential problems as detailed in the motion that was unanimously carried at full Council on 27 October 2014.

- To make informed recommendations on the most appropriate approaches to take to mitigate the parking problems.

3.3 Further meetings of the Working Group will be scheduled during February and March 2015. The final report will be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 23 March 2015.

#### **4 RECOMMENDATION**

4.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee approves the scope of the Parking Working Group, as attached at Appendix A.

4.2 That the Chair of the Working Group reports its findings, key conclusions and recommendations to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 23 March 2015.

Author: Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer, on behalf of Councillor Brian Sargeant, Chair, O&S Parking Working Group

4 December 2014