

Appendices: 0



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET REPORT

Report Title

**Cabinet response to Overview and Scrutiny Committee –
Match day parking**

AGENDA STATUS:

PUBLIC

Cabinet Meeting Date:

15th March 2017

Key Decision:

NO

Within Policy:

YES

Policy Document:

NO

Directorate:

Regeneration Enterprise and
Planning

Accountable Cabinet Member:

Cllr Tim Hadland

Ward(s)

All

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to respond to the recommendations in the Overview and Scrutiny Report on Match day parking.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet:
- 2.2 Note the recommendations included in the Overview and Scrutiny report on match day parking.
- 2.3 Approve the formation of a working group, led by NBC in partnership with Northamptonshire County Council as the lead transport authority to assess the recommendations made by O&S Group and recommend implementation where appropriate.
- 2.4 That the Overview and Scrutiny Working Group are formally congratulated on a high quality and comprehensive report and thanked for the time and effort given to producing it.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

3.1.2 Context and Background

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

3.1.4 *“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:*

3.1.5 *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.*

3.1.6 *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.*

3.1.7 *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.”*

3.1.8 The purpose of the Scrutiny activity was:

3.1.9 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:

3.1.10 Investigate the possibility and viability of issuing tenants in NBC homes (including Cordwainer House, Stitchman House, Stirup House, Lapstone House, Eyeletter House, Abbey House, Melbourne House, Dover Court Devonshire House) that have allocated parking areas with free parking permits.

3.1.11 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 The Scrutiny Working Group recommendation to Cabinet

3.2.1 Discussions are held with the Saints and Northampton Partnership Homes (NPH) regarding the possible introduction of caretaker facilities, provided by Sporting Clubs, and residents parking permits at the flats in St James on match days.

3.2.2 In recognising the increased traffic after a match and increased parking need on match days, the Saints is approached to ascertain whether it could subsidise a Parking Scheme, such as the provision of a steward to man the pedestrian crossing on Weedon Road after a match and the provision of a caretaker at the flats in St James on match days should a residents parking scheme be introduced.

3.2.3 The Saints is asked to advertise match day parking further by including parking details in its programmes.

3.2.4 Consideration is given to widening the use of the Claret car park, free of charge, to include Saturdays when just the Saints are playing at home.

3.2.5 Free car parking facility available at the Claret car park on match days is given heightened publicity.

3.2.6 Consideration is given to giving supporter access to the Doddridge and Castle car park, (Chalk Lane) on Saturday match days.

3.2.7 Consideration is given to providing additional parking at Pineham and Swan Valley on match days.

3.2.8 Early implementation of the St James Mill Road extension; although the Scrutiny Panel understands that procedures on the construction are taking place.

3.2.9 Contact is made with Stage Coach and the Saints regarding the introduction of pilot scheme whereby a Season Ticket Holder can travel to the ground for £1 single each way.

3.2.10 The Executive Committee of the St James Mosque is contacted suggesting that they liaise with local businesses on the Weedon Road, such as Beacon Bingo, to ascertain whether they would be able to offer the mosque parking spaces on Fridays, between 11:30am and 3pm, for a trial period.

3.3 Service response

3.3.1 It is evident from the recommendations to Cabinet that further discussions between key stakeholders needs to take place regularly, within a working group environment and throughout the remaining part of the season. Meaningful actions should be devised and brought forwards for the 2017/18 season.

- 3.3.2 There has to be a multi organisational response to the parking issues highlighted within this report; however the Borough Council will lead and chair the meetings and help the dissemination of actions. The support from the Borough Council will be in the form of Officer time in the first instance. There is currently no allocated budget for ongoing support in this area.
- 3.3.3 The Scrutiny Group has highlighted some excellent potential actions for the group to investigate and it must be these areas that the working group concentrates on in the first instance, however actions should not be limited to these specific proposals.
- 3.3.4 The following membership is proposed for the initial meeting:
- Northampton Saints
 - Northampton Town Football club
 - Northamptonshire County Council
 - Northampton Borough Council
 - Northampton Partnership Homes
 - Stage Coach Midlands
 - University of Northampton
- 3.3.5 Membership of the group may be refined over time and other critical partners should be invited to the meetings as appropriate.
- 3.3.6 It is recommended that the first meeting takes place at the earliest opportunity, likely to be early April 2017.

3.4 Choices (Options)

- 3.4.1 Cabinet can choose to agree with the proposed service response and request Officers to instigate the working group meetings. This is the recommended option.
- 3.4.2 Cabinet can choose to not proceed with the proposed service response. In this scenario the identified issues will not be addressed.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1.1 Policy

- 4.1.2 There are no policy implications arising from this report.

4.2 Resources and Risk

- 4.2.1 There will be a resource implication through officer time to complete the work. Actions arising from meetings may have a financial implication. There is currently no identified budget.

4.3 Legal

4.3.1 There are no particular legal risks which arise directly from the recommendations of this report.

4.4 Equality and Health

4.4.1 There are no Equality or Health implications arising from this report.

4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)

4.5.1 Internal officers have been consulted.

4.6 How the Proposals deliver Priority Outcomes

4.6.1 Invest in safer, cleaner neighbourhoods - Creating an attractive, clean and safe environment.

5. Background Papers

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – Match day parking – March 2015

**John Dale, Head of Economic Development and Regeneration,
Ext. 7078**