

Task Group Updates: ESC 14 April 2015

Car Parking Review Task Group

The Car Parking Review Task Group presented a position statement at the last meeting having considered the consultation responses received and the proposals made as to amending the current car parking strategy. The Committee endorsed the recommendations contained in the [report](#) with an additional comment that the recommendation to promote pay by phone systems may not have been compatible with providing alternative methods for those unable to use the technology. The Car Parking Review Report completed by officers was presented to Cabinet on 17 March which included discussion on the following:

- Over 5,000 responses to the consultation were received
- Outline of the methodology used
- Engagement of the public and scrutiny
- how the review sought to deal with recent changes to Central Government policy and guidance;
- how initiatives could be trialled;
- how assets had been identified for possible review;
- the statutory process required for Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs);
- that the implementation of new technology should be gradual; and
- how the review benefited from considering the experience of other authorities.

Councillor John Walsh referred to the work of the Scrutiny Task Group and his own participation on the Review Project Board as the scrutiny representative. Councillor Mark Packard, Chair of the Task Group made reference to the key recommendations of the Task Group: that the use of cashless technologies is the way forward but this needs to be brought in at a sensible pace which is sensitive to the needs of the older population and those who do not possess the necessary skills to use such technologies. The use of paying by phone services was particularly highlighted, due to the fact that currently paying by phone incurs an additional charge which does not encourage its use.

Cabinet resolved to approve the revised Car Parking Strategy, a decision that the Task Group is in support of. It is recommended that the Task Group now wraps up.

BBLP Task Group

The Task Group met on 25 February and was provided with a presentation on BBLP's plans and resourcing for this year's grass cutting season, which begins in March, covering the following:

- Specifications
- Delivery programme / schedule

- Resources planned / resources actually in place
- Contingency plans

The key point to note was that the review of the service following the difficulties encountered in the last two seasons has led to the subsequent actions:

- Audit of equipment and methodologies used, with input from the Landscape Group;
- Plant and equipment familiarisation sessions are being held for staff during the induction period;
- GPS technology has been installed in equipment to monitor productivity on a weekly basis;
- Subcontracts were not terminated at the end of last season so that they may be called upon as a third in line contingency;
- A joint presentation between BBLP and the Council will be made on an annual basis to towns and parishes;
- The County has been split into three geographical areas instead of two: the West is now its own geographical area as this is where the majority of problems were encountered previously;
- Additional managers have been included bring the total up from six to eight.

Following this meeting it has been confirmed that BBLP have entirely outsourced the grass cutting service to The Landscape Group for this season. The Task Group is due to meet again on 20 May to monitor performance to date.

Waste Task Group - Communications

The final report of this Task Group is included as a substantive item on this agenda.