

## **Reference from Economic & Community Development Advisory Committee**

Economic & Community Development Advisory Committee – 12 February 2015  
(Extract of Minute 28)

Update from Portfolio Holder

The Portfolio Holder reported that Cabinet had taken a decision after the consultation for parking charges and as a consequence there was to be no changes to the evening charges and no increases to on-street charges. He advised that he had asked the Chief Finance officer what the impact of freezing fees for one year would be and it had been a shortfall of £1.1m over the 10 year budget plan period.

He advised that Gary Connor, Parking Manager, was retiring in April and his expertise would be hard to replace. Andy Bracey, Senior Parking and Traffic Engineer, was also leaving. Both would be missed. It was confirmed that recruitment was underway.

Members discussed the need for more lateral and creative thinking with regards to car parking fees and finding other sources of revenue. Fees could not be raised in perpetuity; at some point there would be a tipping point and it would become detrimental to the local economy. Members discussed the need for the Council to have a clear aspiration for moving towards freezing parking fees where occasion allowed, for example with stable inflation.

Resolved: That Cabinet be requested to consider a Council aspiration as above.