



## **Committee and Date**

Economy and Environment  
Overview and Scrutiny  
Committee

23 April 2024

## **ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 19 February 2024**

**In the Council Chamber, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6ND**

**2.00 - 4.24 pm**

**Responsible Officer:** Tim Ward Committee Officer

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### **Present**

Councillors Joyce Barrow (Chairman), Steve Davenport (Vice Chairman), Rosemary Dartnall, Julian Dean, Roger Evans, Ed Potter, Paul Wynn, Roy Aldcroft (Substitute) (substitute for Garry Burchett), Nicholas Bardsley (Substitute) (substitute for Nick Hignett), Alan Mosley (Substitute) (substitute for Pamela Moseley) and David Vasmer (Substitute) (substitute for Rob Wilson)

### **1 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors Garry Burchett, Nick Hignett, Pam Moseley and Rob Wilson

Councillor Roy Aldcroft substituted for Councillor Burchett, Councillor Nick Bardsley substituted for Councillor Hignett, Councillor Alan Mosley substituted for Councillor Moseley and Councillor David Vasmer substituted for Councillor Wilson

### **2 Disclosable Interests**

There were no interests declared

### **3 Public Question Time**

The Chairman advised that public questions had been received from Pauline Dee and Seb Slater. A copy of the questions and the responses provided are attached to the signed minutes and available from the web page for the meeting

[Agenda for Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Monday, 19th February, 2024, 2.00 pm — Shropshire Council](#)

### **4 Member Question Time**

There were no questions from Members.

Councillor Andy Boddington addressed the meeting. He expressed the need for improvements to Park and Ride in Ludlow to enable the modal shift from car use. He

added that the increased charges could have an effect on the economic viability of the town.

Councillor Ed Towers requested that the banding for Wem be addressed as he felt that Wem should be in "Band 7" which would help address the issues that were currently affecting the town. In response to a question Councillor Towers confirmed that the Town Council had not been formally consulted on the changes and had not had opportunity to discuss the changes prior to the Cabinet meeting,

## 5 Call In of Cabinet Decision - Parking Tariffs, Operations & Development

The Statutory Scrutiny Officer took the meeting through the procedure which would be followed which was set out in appendix 4 of the report.

The Leader of the Labour Group, Councillor Buckley referred the meeting to the reasons for the call in which were set out in appendix 1a of the report she then drew members attention to the following points:

- The increases would have a major impact on businesses, residents, and tourists.
- There had been no consultation carried out with those that would be affected.
- The increases proposed were exceptionally high when compared to other increases in fees proposed, a fact that the Cabinet may not have been aware of when making their decision.
- The introduction of evening and weekend charges where there previously were not charges constituted a change of condition which had greater requirement for consultation which had not taken place. These charges would also have an adverse effect on the nighttime and weekend economy.
- There would be an adverse impact on residents through displaced on street parking.
- There is a need to look at the way we work with Partners and stakeholder when introducing changes.

Councillor Rosemary Dartnall seconded the proposal to refer the decision back to Cabinet for them to reconsider the decision made.

The Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group stated that there were 4 main points in their call – in: -

- It was inappropriate that changes to car parking charges were made before a review of the parking strategy had been considered.
- There were statements in the report about car parks and on-street parking being frequently full but there was no evidence to support this contained in the report.
- The increases in charges in car parks outside the loop as compared to those within the loop was contrary to the policy contained within the Movement Strategy.
- The purposes of the increases are not clearly specified.

Councillor Evans proposed that the decision be referred back to Cabinet for them to consider the following: -

- To look at the situation in Wem, moving from Band 6 to Band 7
- To restrict any increase in charges to inflation
- To remove the proposal to introduce charges between 6.00pm and 8.00pm
- To remove the proposal to introduce charging on Sundays.

Council David Vasmer seconded the proposal.

The Assistant Director Infrastructure explained the background behind the proposals. He informed the Committee that after a review of the parking assets it had become clear that there was need for a parking improvement plan to ensure the necessary investment was available to maintain and improve car parks and that additional staff were needed to oversee this and to progress the outstanding residents parking schemes. He added that the proposed increase were to ensure that the funding was available without having to take money from elsewhere in the highways budget.

The Portfolio Holder for Highways advised Members that were any surplus to arise in the parking budget it could be used to support things like public transport

Following a request for clarification the Head of Legal and Democratic Services stated that whilst charges could not be set with the express purpose of generating a surplus for other purposes, when setting charges it was considered prudent financial practice to take account of any surplus as long as charges were set in accordance with the Road Traffic Act.

In response to a query the Head of Legal and Democratic Services stated that there were two ways in which changes could be introduced

- a) By Notice – where the proposed changes were publicised by publishing a notice stating that the changes were to be made 21 days ahead of the changes
- b) By Order – where a notice of intention would be published and there was a 21 day period for objections and notice must be taken of any objections received prior to making the final order.

She stated that it was set out in the Road Traffic Regulation Act which process should be followed.

After further discussion it was proposed by Councillor Wynn that the decision be referred back to Cabinet following the concerns expressed around the higher charges in Shrewsbury, the effect of evening and Sunday charges and the situation in Wem. This was seconded by Councillor Aldcroft.

**RESOLVED:**

That the decision should be referred back to Cabinet to be reconsidered in light of the following concerns: -

- Higher Charges in Shrewsbury
- Situation in Wem (moving from Band 6 to Band 7)
- Evening charges
- Sunday parking charges

Signed ..... (Chairman)

Date: .....