

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

TO: CABINET (Special) - 18 November 2013

FROM: COUNCIL – 14 November 2013

MOTION REFERRED TO EXECUTIVE – 20 Minutes Free Parking

1. At the meeting of Council held on 14 November 2013, and in accordance with the provisions of Rule 14.6 and 14.7, an amended Motion falling within the remit of the Executive was referred by the Council to the next meeting of the Executive as follows:

“This Council deplores the haphazard decision taken by the Tory Cabinet to stop the 20 minutes free parking roll out across the Borough which was drawn up and introduced by previous administrations.

This decision was taken to help the local traders and the residents who are already struggling under the immense pressure of the increased cost of living.

It is clear, from the comments made by the members of public and traders at the last Cabinet meeting, that the Traders of Rayners Lane in particular and residents and local shops across the Borough in general, do not understand the decision taken by the Tory Cabinet which was based on incomplete information and with a total lack of consultation.

This Council calls upon the Leader of the Council, Cllr Susan Hall, to urgently reconsider this decision and roll out free 20 minutes parking across the Borough until June 2014 so that a thorough and objective assessment with input from local businesses can be made by the incoming administration following the 2014 Council elections.”

2. A debate was then held on the content of the amended Motion. The comments made by Members are summarised as follows:
 - The 20 minutes free parking trial had been implemented to help local businesses and this assistance should be continued;
 - There had been a lack of consultation on the proposed abolition of the 20 minutes free parking trial;
 - Harrow was losing businesses to Hillingdon due to issues with its parking system across the borough;
 - The 20 minutes free parking system across the borough was only a trial within Rayners Lane;
 - There was no definitive proof that the 20 minute free parking system actually helped businesses. If a business failed it was usually due to other reasons such as its management for example;

- It would cost over £1 million to implement a 20 minutes free parking system and there were no guarantees that the scheme would be successful;
- A similar parking system to that of Hillingdon would be supported;
- Parking was an issue for local businesses. However it was important to note that cleanliness was the most important issue for local businesses;
- The Council had a duty to protect and enhance the borough and the 20 minutes free parking would contribute to this;
- The evidence used relating to the calculation of Penalty Charge Notices when justifying the abolition of the free 20 minutes free parking period was inadequate;
- The Leader of the Council had proposed a cross party working group to review the parking systems across the borough;
- The trial for the 20 minutes free parking had only taken place for 3 months and not 6 months. This meant that insufficient time had been allowed for the trial to allow meaningful findings to be established.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Background documents:

1. Motion submitted to the Council meeting – 14 November 2013.

Contact:

Elaine McEachron
Democratic & Electoral Services Manager
Direct Dial: 020 8424 1097
email: elaine.mceachron@harrow.gov.uk