

<b>NAME OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	<b>4 July, 2019</b>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>INCOME FROM CAR PARKS</b>
<b>AUTHOR</b>	<b>Dafydd Williams – Head of Environment Department</b>
<b>CABINET MEMBER</b>	<b>Cllr. Gareth Griffith</b>
<b>PURPOSE</b>	<b>To request that the Scrutiny Committee establishes a Task Group to assist with the work of analysing the range of options to manage car parks in light of future financial income challenges.</b>

## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 A report was submitted to this Committee on the 7th of February this year outlining all the Council arrangements that are in place to manage our car parks. The report explained the parking strategy adopted in 2015 and analysed the current income from parking fees.
- 1.2 The report also identified that there was a challenge to continue to try and increase the annual revenue income as a contribution towards maintaining and improving the infrastructure of our roads and streets. It outlined that it was necessary to try and identify options to secure an increase in income of approximately £180,000. In addition to this, a target of £50,000 has been set for new income from a scheme to install equipment to charge electric cars.
- 1.3 It was also reported that it was necessary to try and cope with the effect of annual inflation. The effect of inflation means that the parking income target increases year on year (an increase of £197,000 over the past five years and an additional £47,000 during the current financial year). A huge effort is, therefore, needed to find ways of increasing income to address the impact of inflation before any contributions towards the Council's savings target can be considered.
- 1.4 The report explained that the effect of all the above would mean that it could be anticipated that by 2022/23 the annual income will need to be approximately £450,000 higher than it is today.

1.5 It was reported that there were several possible options open to Members when trying to address this substantial sum and further options were also proposed by Committee Members. It was concluded that the options that should be considered further included:

- a) Increasing parking fees
- b) Amending the criteria so that more free car parks become pay and display
- c) Introduce pay and display arrangements in car parks managed by other Council departments
- d) Introduce more card 'chip and pin' pay machines
- e) Transfer free car parks to be managed by the community and by so doing try to reduce running costs
- f) Consider installing cameras in some car parks to release officers to undertake enforcement work in other car parks

## **2. UPDATE**

2.1 In addition to the above, originally it was proposed to consider deleting the Free Christmas Parking scheme that would have created an additional income of £45,000. In adopting all the savings plans across the Council the Cabinet resolved to recommend to the Council not to include this plan on the final savings list.

2.2 Subsequently, the additional income total we need to find by 2022/23 (as explained in 1.4 above) has reduced to approximately £400,000.

2.3 The Cabinet and the Council's resolution also required us to consider if it is possible to keep the cost of parking for Gwynedd residents at the same rate or even lower. This means that detailed work is required to establish what type of arrangements can be introduced in order to try and realise this aspiration.

2.4 Evidently this is a complex field where it will be necessary to analyse financial details together with the various options as well as considering the practicalities of the different management arrangements. It is considered that it would be useful to be able to set aside extended time if we want to ensure that this work is undertaken thoroughly and therefore the Committee is requested to identify Members to assist with this work in the form of a Scrutiny Working Group.

## **3. RECOMMENDATION**

3.1 Subject to confirmation that this field is a priority by the Scrutiny Forum, the Communities Scrutiny Committee is requested to establish a Task Group, with some members of the Scrutiny Committee assisting the Service to assess the possible options to increase income from car parks and at the same time to assess if it is possible to undertake this without increasing parking costs for Gwynedd residents.