

**To: City Executive Board**

**Date: 5<sup>th</sup> December 2012**

**Report of: Head of Law and Governance**

**Title of Report: PARKING IN PARKS – SIGNAGE AND MONITORING**

### **Summary and Recommendations**

**Purpose of report:** To present comments and recommendations from the Value and Performance Scrutiny Committee in response to a call-in to that Committee of the decision of the Board in respect of charging for parking in areas adjacent to parks.

**Key decision? No**

**Scrutiny Lead Member: Councillor Mark Mills**

**Executive lead member: Councillor Colin Cook**

**Report approved by:**

**Recommendation(s): The City Executive Board to say if it agrees or disagrees with the following recommendations of the Committee**

- (a) To note the decision of the Value and Performance Committee not to uphold the call-in;
- (b) To allocate additional funding to allow for improved signage at the car parks adjacent to parks in order the charges may be better explained to the public;
- (c) To continue to monitor the charges and to undertake a further review within the next six months.

### **Introduction**

1. The Chair of the Value and Performance Scrutiny Committee called-in the decision of the City Executive Board on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2012 in respect of a review of charging for parking in areas adjacent to parks.
2. The reason for the call-in was that in making the decision consideration should have been given to:-

- (i) The impact on neighbouring areas.
  - (ii) The balance between revenue from charges and penalties.
  - (iii) Whether there are other factors in play which might be distorting the comparison of user numbers.
3. Following a debate during which the Committee heard from local residents who lived close by parks car parks, the Committee agreed not to uphold the call-in, but wished to make two recommendations to the City Executive Board on funding for better signage and for continued monitoring which are set out in the summary box.

### **Director and Board Member Comments**

Tim Sadler, Director, Community Services

One has to strike a balance between there being no possibility that anyone could ever be in doubt that a charging regime is in place with the cost of signage and the overall appearance and impact on the park environment.

A great deal of thought was applied when installing the pay machines and signs to ensure that it was unlikely that someone would park and not pay as they were not aware that a charging regime was in place. I have asked the Parking Manager to review the signage in the light of experience and comments from park users and members

Board Member, Councillor Cook – Comments will be made at the meeting.

<b>Name and contact details of author:-</b>
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**List of background papers: None**

**Version number: 1**