

ACTIONS TAKEN: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION MEETING – 12 JULY 2012

<u>Minute Number</u>	<u>Action Required</u>	<u>Response/ Action Taken</u>
8. Localism Act	Include Procurement Timetable in future agenda items	The timetable is anticipated to be available for the Commission meeting on 22 November
12. Corporate Performance Overview Report	Confirm rationale for Waitrose car parking charge	Discouraging long term car parking was a consideration on the Waitrose application which went before the Planning Committee. The store car park is close to the town centre and would attract parking by shoppers visiting the wider town centre, and people working in the town centre too, if there was not a cut-off time for free parking and a high charge for over-staying that. The approach fits with the wider town centre transport proposals, and has highway benefits. Waitrose policy is to stop longer term parking in their private car parks, and the imposition of a £20 charge for parking in excess of two hours is clearly signposted at the store.
13. Service Plans 2012/13	Circulate plans of Twin Bridges Roundabout improvements to Members	A concept scheme has been published on the public website as part of the Site Allocations Development Plan Document work (attached). Works planned this year include a topographical survey, analysis of current vehicular movements and 2 safety audits which will inform the detailed design of the junction improvements.
	Advise whether the possibility of having net monthly invoices as part of contracts has been explored	<p>The Borough Treasurer has advised that his understanding of net monthly invoices is that payment is made on the last day of the month following the one in which the invoice is dated.</p> <p>The impact of this would be to delay payment to suppliers by up to two months after the invoice date. This would have a positive impact on the Council's cash flow and the interest that it is able to earn. Conversely, it would have a detrimental impact on the supplier's cash flow, resulting in increased costs.</p> <p>The possibility of introducing net monthly invoices has not been considered to date as it is contrary to the guidance that Members have provided in the past. In essence, the view has been that the Council should be supporting businesses during the recession. This has led to a policy of paying all undisputed invoices within 30 days (currently achieving 93.4%) unless contractual terms require payment within a shorter period of time.</p>

		<p>In addition, the Council utilises a procurement card which enables businesses to opt for payment of their invoices within an even shorter timescale should they so wish. In practice few businesses exercise this option because the banks levy a charge (known as a merchant fee) if suppliers accept payment via a procurement card.</p> <p>The introduction of net monthly invoices would represent a reversal of the current policy and as such requires wider discussion amongst Members followed by a formal decision by the Executive Member for Transformation and Finance.</p>
13.	Cllr Angell asked for more information on the survey of 'Town & Country' readers	The total number of responses to the survey carried out in October/November of last year was 595. Cllr Angell was sent the full report of the survey results on 18 July.