Title: Pre-Decision Scrutiny: Parking Strategy

Report of the Strategic Director of Customer, Commercial and Service Delivery

Open Report

For Information

Wards Affected: All

Key Decision: No

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Summary

The Council is developing a new Parking Strategy and has embarked on a large consultation exercise. It had previously been agreed that the Safer and Stronger Community Select Committee (SSCSC) would be party to this consultation.

This report provides an update on the current feedback from the public consultation which is still ongoing.

Recommendation(s)

The Select Committee is asked to comment on and note the report.

Reason(s)

To contribute to the Council’s vision, and in terms of this scrutiny review, the Council is creating a Parking Strategy which will contribute to the Council’s corporate objectives of:

- Encouraging civic pride
- Enabling social responsibility
- Growing the Borough

1. Introduction and Background

1.1 In 2015/16, it was agreed that Enforcement Services would develop a Parking Strategy which would support the development and implementation of new and existing schemes ensuring fairness, consistency and transparency across the borough but also looking at the safety of road users, pedestrians, cyclists and vulnerable groups.
1.2 Although the formal consultation on the strategy does not close until 23 September 2016, officers have brought the findings to date to SSCSC for views and thoughts on the strategy, and the feedback to date.

1.3 In addition, SSCSC undertook a review of disabled parking provision in the Borough in 2015/16, considering car parking available to enable residents with a disability to access parking both at their homes and at the Borough’s facilities when out and about. It also considered the alternative transport options available for people with disabilities. An update on the progress of this review is contained within Appendix 1.

2. What the draft Strategy sets out to do

2.1 To help achieve the vision four key objectives have been set out for this draft Parking Strategy:

- Safe;
- Consistent;
- Transparent; and
- Fairness.

3. How will we meet these objectives?

3.1 The Strategy proposes use of a hierarchy of parking need to enable development of parking arrangements to support the strategic objectives. In general, priority would be given to road users as follows:

- Resident with disability;
- Non-resident with disability;
- Local resident;
- Priority care workers;
- Local business essential servicing;
- Short stay visitor (including shoppers);
- Long stay visitor (including shoppers); and
- Long stay commuters.

4. The Strategy’s 10 Key Objectives

- Local business growth - particularly supporting local traders;
- Balancing the demand for parking against availability for local residents;
- Improving road safety;
- Smoothing of traffic flow to reduce congestion;
- Prioritisation of kerbside space according to need;
- Encouraging a shift to more sustainable means of transport;
- Improving air quality;
- Maintenance and improvement of the quality of the public realm and local environment;
- Provisions or a fair, robust, proportionate, efficient, responsive and transparent enforcement service; and
- Utilisation of technology to provide good and efficient customer service.
5. **Feedback to date of submitting this report**

5.1 Appendix 2 shows the results from the consultation to date. 94 responses have been received which was not as high as expected even though the consultation has been publicised widely. The consultation is open until the 23 September 2016.

5.2 The feedback received indicates that a high majority of people who have responded to the consultation agree with the recommendations outlined within the strategy.

5.3 Negative feedback has been received from customers who do not welcome paying for parking by phone; however this has been counterargued by customers complaining that the machines are not working. As the Council channel shifts to a digital borough, more cashless options are being explored and paying for parking by phone will remain.

5.4 Feedback worthy of note from respondents included requests to no longer allow dropped kerbs to be installed, as this was taking away kerb space for street parking.

**Public Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:** None

**List of appendices:**

- Appendix 1 – Provision of Disabled Parking Review: Update
- Appendix 2 – Feedback on Parking Strategy Consultation