

ON-STREET PARKING

Report By: **ACTING HEAD OF HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION**

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To highlight the Council's current policy with regard to on-street parking controls and consider whether it may be appropriate for this Committee to undertake a review to determine whether it would wish to recommend any improvements.

Financial Implications

1. None as a result of this report

Background

2. The Council's Countywide Car Parking Strategy forms part of the Council's Local Transport Plan that sets out the overall transport strategy for the County. This recognises the important role that the parking policy can play in developing a sustainable and integrated transport system for the County. It encompasses the Council's current approach to the management of both on and off-street parking. A copy of the strategy is attached as Appendix 1 for reference.
3. During 2004, this Committee carried out a detailed review of the previous strategy. That review considered the full range of issues relating to car parking from strategic policy to more detailed implementation issues. It also included comprehensive consultation with stakeholders. The recommendations arising from that review helped with the development of the current strategy that was subsequently incorporated into the Local Transport Plan.
4. The strategy sets out a countywide approach to the management of the Council's off-street car parks. This includes detailed area strategies for Hereford and the Market Towns to ensure that car park management is tailored to recognise local needs. It is not considered necessary to review this aspect of the current strategy at present.
5. There are over 1600 on-street parking spaces available in the main centres of the County, all of which are currently free and generally controlled by means of limited waiting restrictions. Within Hereford there are over 400 spaces, representing 15% of publicly available parking provision for the City Centre. Decriminalised parking enforcement was introduced some years ago throughout Herefordshire and the Council employs a team of Parking Attendants to undertake enforcement of parking restrictions.
6. The current strategy identifies that during the period of the current Local Transport Plan, consideration will be given to the introduction of on-street charges in central Hereford to contribute to managing demand and provide revenue funding to support Park and Ride or other sustainable transport improvements. The Council is currently developing proposals for park and ride facilities for Hereford and it is hoped to bring forward a scheme to serve traffic

entering the City from the North in 2009. The Committee may wish to consider the approach that should be taken to this aspect of the strategy.

7. In addition, the Council has over recent years continued with a programme of Residents Parking Schemes in residential areas close to the centre of Hereford, and in appropriate locations in the Market Towns, to deter commuter and shopper parking and help enable residents to park. Given the number of schemes that have now been introduced, it may be appropriate to review the extent to which they have been successful and whether there are any improvements that could be made to how the schemes are operated and enforced.
8. The Committee may wish to consider the approach they would wish to take to reviewing the recommending any improvements to the Council's policy in relation to the management of on-street parking.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee consider whether to undertake a review of the Council's policy in relation to on-street parking controls.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Appendix 1: Extract from Herefordshire Local Transport Plan 2006/7