

MEETING:	CABINET
DATE:	29 OCTOBER 2009
TITLE OF REPORT:	REPOSE TO ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT ON ITS REVIEW OF ON STREET PARKING
PORTFOLIO AREA:	HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

CLASSIFICATION: Open

Wards Affected

Hereford City, Market Towns

Purpose

To approve response to Environment Scrutiny Committee Review of On Street Parking.

Key Decision

This is not a Key Decision.

Recommendation(s)

THAT: the responses set out in Appendix 1 be approved.

Key Points Summary

- The Environment Scrutiny Committee's On-Street Parking Review Group has undertaken a review of on street parking and has completed a report – 'Scrutiny Review of On-Street Parking'.
- The report makes a number of detailed recommendations on policy and operational matters relating to car parking.
- The proposed approved changes will be incorporated in a review of parking policy and also to help improve the delivery car parking services.

Alternative Options

- 1 The proposed responses at Appendix 1 indicate where alternative options to those recommended in the Report will be explored.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Steve Burgess (01432) 260968, Andrew Lee-Jones 260963

Reasons for Recommendations

- 2 The report has provided useful commentary and recommendations on issues for consideration in a review of the Local Transport Plan's Car Parking Strategy.

Introduction and Background

- 3 The Environment Scrutiny Committee at its meeting of 25 February 2008 considered a report by the then Acting Head of Highways and Transportation with regard to on-street parking controls. The Scrutiny Committee agreed to undertake a review to determine whether any improvements could be made. To assist with the review Terms of Reference were agreed which included:
 - To review current policies governing on-street parking in the light of any areas of concern that have been expressed, and to identify improvements drawn from best practice elsewhere that could be made to help achieve the policy objectives better.
 - To examine how we manage streets in terms of residents and non-residents parking in Hereford City (and Market Towns) to ensure that the treatment of both groups is equitable, to identify the extent to which the current arrangements are successful, to identify whether there are any improvements that could be made to how the schemes are operated and enforced.
- 4 The report of the On-Street Parking Scrutiny Review Group of the Environment Scrutiny Committee was presented at the Environment Scrutiny Committee on 20 April 2009.

Key Considerations

- 5 The report sets out recommendations that relate both to car parking policy and its role in wider transport strategy, and to operational car parking matters which relate more to procedural issues. Consequently, the report has implications both for the Regeneration Directorate which is responsible for developing transport strategy and the Environment and Culture Directorate which is responsible for on-street parking enforcement and traffic management. Whilst not able to make firm recommendations for the introduction of on street parking charges, it is noted that the Scrutiny Committee clearly sees a role for both on and off street charges in encouraging visitors to the City to use park and ride once it is in place.
- 6 Work has now started on the review of current transport strategy in preparation for the 3rd Local Transport Plan. A number of other studies and projects relating to parking strategy are currently in progress, including a Hereford City Centre Parking Study and the development of Park and Ride proposals. The On-Street Parking Scrutiny Review Group's work provides a very useful additional resource in this process and it will be considered alongside the other studies in the review of the car parking strategy. Following the completion of this review, a local public meeting was held in the St James and Bartonsham area of Hereford with local members in relation to residents parking in the area. Subsequent to this, a petition was received containing over 130 signatures against changes to the existing Residents Parking schemes in the area. This has been taken into account when preparing this report.

Community Impact

- 7 The acceptance of the recommended responses in respect of policy matters will not have direct community impacts. The acceptance of recommendations in respect of parking procedural matters would have local community impacts and it would be essential that these recommendations be subject to further consultation were they to be accepted

Financial Implications

- 8 The proposed responses to the parking policy recommendations will be cost neutral as they will be incorporated into the planned review of the parking strategy set out in the current local transport plan.
- 9 The Director of Resources was asked to comment specifically on Recommendation 5C which proposes the ring fencing of all car parking income for investment in environmental improvements. His response is provided in full in Appendix 1. In summary he has indicated that this recommendation would have resulted in an immediate budget shortfall of £1,990,570 in the Environment and Culture Directorates base budget for 2008/9 and this would not be financially sustainable.

Legal Implications

- 10 The making, or variation of a traffic regulation order, would be required in relation to some of the proposals in Appendix 1, as referred to in the relevant Cabinet Responses. As regards recommendation 5c, only surplus income (ie after deduction of expenditure for designated parking places) can legally be made available for environmental improvements.

Risk Management

- 11 Developing an effective strategy for parking and delivering this through procedures which are fit for purpose has a significant impact on the wider reputation of the Council. Parking policy has a role to play in wider transport strategy and can help support our objectives to reduce congestion, improve road safety and encourage more sustainable modes. At a more local level policies and procedures play an important role in ensuring quality of life for local residents and can support objectives to improve residential amenity.
- 12 This report and its recommendations will assist the Council in its review of transport strategy helping the Council to ensure that its strategy is sound and that its parking policies are fit for purpose.

Consultees

- 13 The On-Street Parking Scrutiny Review Group engaged with a range of stakeholders and these are listed in their report. The Report was also referred to Hereford City Council and its Planning and Highways Committee and its response is included at Appendix 3.

Appendices

- 14 Appendix 1 – Recommendations and proposed actions - On-Street Parking Scrutiny Review Group Report
Appendix 2 – Scrutiny Review of On-Street Parking Services – Report by the On-Street Parking Scrutiny Review Group, April 2009
Appendix 3 – Hereford City Council comments 1 June 2009 and its Planning and Highways Committee comments of 24 June 2009

Background Papers

- None identified.