

CABINET

Parking Strategy 7th October 2008

Report of Head of Property Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT				
To approve an updated Parking Strategy for the district following consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.				
Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-Key Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Officer Referral to Cabinet
Date Included in Forward Plan	N/A			
This report is public				

RECOMMENDATIONS OF COUNCILLOR MACE

- (1) That the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Parking Policy approves the updated Parking Strategy as the Parking Strategy for the District.
- (2) That the Parking Strategy is reviewed and updated on an annual basis in consultation with the Cabinet Member.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The City Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the Parking Strategy at its meeting held in June as part of its Work Programme. The Committee requested an updated version and this has now been produced and is appended to this report.
- 1.2 The updated version includes reference to the latest policy documents that form the policy context for the Strategy and the Action Plan and takes account of the termination of the Highways Partnership and the transfer of related functions to the County Council.

2.0 Proposal Details

- 2.1 The Draft Parking Strategy was originally considered by Cabinet in April 2006 when it was resolved:

(1) That Cabinet refers the Draft Parking Strategy to an informal Working Group of Cabinet, consisting of Councillors Janice Hanson, Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility to Chair the meeting, Abbott Bryning, Gina Dowding and Alex Stone

and that the final decision be taken by the Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility prior to the consultation process being undertaken.

(2) That Cabinet considers any substantive changes arising from the formal consultation at a future meeting, including consultation issues relating to large employers and that also this issue be reported to the Lancashire Local and the City Council's Joint Consultative Committee (JCC).

- 2.2 The Working Group considered the matter on 12th June 2006, after which the Cabinet Member approved the document for consultation. The Draft Parking Strategy was then considered by JCC in October 2006 and by the Lancashire Local in November 2006 as per Cabinet's request. Public consultation was undertaken between March and June 2007, including large employers in the area.
- 2.3 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the Strategy at its meeting held in September 2007, and agreed to review the Strategy after 6 months. However, it was noted that the City Council was no longer responsible for some of the recommendations since the Highways Partnership ceased. Concern was also expressed at the short and long stay car parks and whether customers were aware of the difference and how the Strategy would link with park and ride. It was further agreed to refer the issue of the pricing of car parks and the possibility of installing barriers (pay on foot payment systems) to the Budget and Performance Panel in order that the Panel could question the cost of charging against the cost of enforcement. A report on pay on foot payment systems was considered by the Panel in February 2008.
- 2.4 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee also considered the Strategy at its meeting held in June. Members noted that the Strategy needed updating and that responsibility for approval of the Strategy was dependent on the extent of the necessary changes. If minor revisions were required the Strategy could be agreed by the Cabinet Member with Responsibility, however if the revisions were significant the Strategy would need to be agreed by Cabinet.

Members expressed concern at progress in relation to the provision of additional residents' parking schemes that is now beyond the remit of the City Council. It was agreed that an invitation be extended to the appropriate officers of the County Council to a future meeting to discuss progress on the implementation of further residents parking schemes and highways issues within the Strategy. Councillor Janice Hanson, Lancashire County Council Cabinet Member for Highways & Planning and Jim Robson, Lancashire County Council Area Manager North attended the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 3rd September and addressed concerns from Committee Members and members of the public about the lack of progress with the introduction of additional residents parking schemes. The Committee was informed that additional staffing resources are now available to the County Council and some progress should now be made subject these resources bedding in and being maintained. The Committee resolved that the Cabinet Member be asked to note the lack of progress and to ask the County Council to complete the implementation of the 4 identified priority schemes as soon as possible. It was also agreed that representatives from the County Council be invited to a future meeting to provide a further update on the progress on these schemes.

- 2.5 The Strategy has now been updated to include revised policy documents that set the policy context for the Strategy. The updated version also takes account of the termination of the Highways Partnership and the transfer of related functions to the County Council. The recent amendments to the Strategy and the changes arising

from the public consultation are minor revisions and not substantive changes requiring the approval of Cabinet.

- 2.6 It is recommended that the Parking Strategy and Action Plan be reviewed and updated on an annual basis in consultation with the Cabinet Member and issues reported to full Cabinet as appropriate. For example, this would allow the Lancaster and Morecambe Vision Board's 'Transport Vision and Strategy' document to be considered and reflected within the Parking Strategy.

3.0 Details of Consultation

- 3.1 As previously mentioned the Strategy was the subject of public consultation in 2007 and has also been considered by the Lancashire Local and JCC. Large employers within the district have also been consulted.

4.0 Options and Options Analysis (including risk assessment)

- 4.1 Option 1 is to approve the updated Strategy and formally adopt it as the Parking Strategy for the district. The Strategy draws on the advice and guidance contained within various policy documents and would be used as a framework to inform officers on the management and development of parking assets within the context of this development framework. By reviewing the Strategy and Action Plan on an annual basis this would allow the management of parking assets to take account of regeneration and redevelopment proposals and other issues affecting the strategic management of parking in the district.
- 4.2 Option 2 is not to adopt the updated Strategy. This would result in there being no Parking Strategy and Action Plan to guide and inform officers on the strategic management of parking assets in the district. There would be no opportunity to review the Strategy and Action Plan to take account of initiatives and proposals that impact on the district's economic prosperity.

5.0 Officer Preferred Option (and comments)

- 5.1 Option 1 to approve the updated Strategy as the Parking Strategy for the district is the preferred option for the reasons outlined in section 4.1.

RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK

Council's Core Values: Putting our customers first

Medium Term Objectives: Links to ensuring cost effective services, providing customer focused services and leading the regeneration of our District.

Challenge and review the use, provision and performance of property is seen as a positive approach to ensuring that assets are fit for purpose and that retention, investment and utilisation is focused on the needs of the customer and the achievement of the Council's corporate objectives." (Corporate Property Strategy)

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

There are no impacts arising out of this report, although should any changes be recommended, then there may be specific impacts that arise.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications directly arising from this report, as in broad terms the proposed Strategy is line with the basis of the budget. However, the Strategy and Action Plan recommends a range of specific aims and objectives that could potentially affect parking policies and management. These may affect the overall number of charged spaces, charging policies and the off-street parking income currently generated in future. The Strategy would also be mindful of the ongoing VAT Tribunal Case concerning VAT reclaimable amounts in respect of on-street and off-street parking. Any financial implications arising from the implementation of the Strategy that fall outside of the approved budget, or outcomes of the VAT Tribunal, would be reported to Cabinet for consideration as appropriate.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The s151 Officer has been consulted and her comments reflected in the report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Deputy Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments to add

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Minutes of the following meetings:

Cabinet 25/4/06
Informal Cabinet Working Group 12/6/06
JCC 4/10/06
Lancashire Local 21/11/06
Overview and Scrutiny Committee 5/9/07
4/6/08 and 3/9/08

Earlier versions of the Parking Strategy

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