

Subject:	Citywide Parking Review		
Date of Meeting:	4 October 2011		
Report of:	Strategic Director, Place		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Owen Mcelroy	Tel: 290417
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Key Decision:	Yes	Forward Plan No: ETSCMM23593	
Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE.

- 1.1 Brighton & Hove's Sustainable Community Strategy identifies "reduced traffic congestion", "reduced traffic fumes" and "improving the safety, security and attractiveness of streets" as key priorities for sustainable transport.
- 1.2 The council manages parking in order to reduce congestion, keep traffic moving, provide access safely to those who need it most and deliver excellent customer service (Parking Annual Report 2010). The effective management of parking contributes to the well being & quality of life of residents, to an enhanced visitor experience and to the local economy generally.
- 1.3 It is proposed to review the way the council manages parking through consulting residents, businesses and other stakeholders and learning from the best practice of other local authorities. The purpose of this review is to seek continuous improvement in the council's parking management whilst balancing the needs of users overall.
- 1.4 It is also necessary to take more immediate action to address the most urgent areas of parking demand in the city as identified by residents, ward members and other stakeholders. Although these areas are to be addressed urgently there is a timetable for the work to be undertaken which is dictated by the officer resources available and is expected to complete by early 2015.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Cabinet Member for Transport & Public Realm:
 - (a) Approves the urgent programme of reviews and/or consultation on extensions to parking schemes as described in Appendix A, timetabled in Appendix B and set out in the plan drawing, Appendix C;
 - (b) Agrees that the programme of reviews set out in Appendices A, B and C of the report will replace the former timetable of parking reviews agreed on 24th January 2008;
 - (c) Notes the summary of requests for parking consultations and parking issues raised by residents & other stakeholders set out in appendix D.

- (d) Instructs officers to undertake a city wide review of parking management and to report back within six months of commencement.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 A timetable for parking reviews was agreed at 24 January 2008 Environment Committee.
- 3.2 Due to recent consultations where the level of support was either overwhelmingly against the introduction of controlled parking or in favour of controlled parking in substantially reduced areas, in October 2010 the Cabinet Member for Environment suspended the timetable against the background of local authority financial restraint.
- 3.3 Since that decision there has been growing pressure for immediate consultation in areas of high parking demand and conflict evidenced by ward member and public support and an expectation of a thorough and detailed review of the council's parking management policies city-wide.
- 3.4 The four areas identified in Appendix A, namely Richmond Heights (Area C extension), Canning Street (Area H extension), London Road (Area J extension, north of the railway line & Round hill area) and Preston Park (Area A northern extension) are considered to be the highest priority for consultation on the grounds of parking demand, conflict, road safety and are the most supported by ward members and residents. In each case consideration will be given to the provision of on street cycle parking and additional car club spaces and the possible improvements to local bus services and accessibility. Hanover & Elm Grove is not considered to be supported by residents since there was a 75% "No" vote in the May 2010 consultation. In the combined West Hove & Portslade area it is still difficult to identify a larger geographically viable boundary supported by residents and ward members, which if sub-divided would not cause immediate displacement. It is therefore felt that considering this area within the longer term city wide review consultation is more appropriate.
- 3.5 In addition there have been localised requests for resident parking schemes and a number of suggestions for policy changes have been raised by residents and other stakeholders.
- 3.6 Other local authorities such as Westminster and Eastbourne have recently conducted parking reviews which include postal questionnaires, community parking forums, street interviews and vehicle counts. These reviews have led to various recommendations such as changing the hours of operation of parking controls, reviews and extensions to schemes, the introduction of new technologies such as pay by phone parking and modifications to the Local Transport Plans.
- 3.7 The terms of reference for the longer term review will cover both public on and off street parking and include questions about individuals and businesses and their parking needs/habits and their perceptions of parking operation, enforcement and the amount and availability of different kinds of parking places . It will

include issues related to sustainable transport such as the provision of additional on street cycle parking and car club spaces. The consultation will consist of a postal consultation of about 6000 random addresses across the city with the additional facility of being able to contribute via the council's website. Relevant stakeholders will be contacted directly for their views and where possible community focus groups or panels will be engaged.

- 3.8 The exact detail of the longer term review and the range of questions will be determined by officers but this will be in consultation with ECSOSC, the Cabinet Member and key internal and external stakeholders. ECSOSC will act as a "critical friend" and meetings and workshops will be held between now and March 2012 to help develop the content of the review. ECSOSC findings will be reported back to ECMM in spring 2012 and will be taken account of the preparation of the longer term city wide review consultation.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The details of prior consultation in respect of the proposed urgent timetable for resident parking reviews are set out in Appendix A. The longer term city wide review consultation will involve residents, businesses and a wide range of stakeholders. Internal officers have already been consulted.
- 4.2 There has been prior engagement with Environment & Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee (ECSOSC) and lead officers have briefed ECSOSC on how they will influence the review process.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 Any revenue costs associated with the longer term city wide review recommendations will need to be met from City Regulation and Infrastructure budgets. Although the exact scope of the consultation element of the review is yet to be determined, it is not expected to exceed £25K. The financial impact of revenue from any extension to parking schemes will be included within the proposed budget for 2012/13 which will be submitted to Budget Council in February 2012.
- 5.2 New parking schemes are capital projects, funded by unsupported borrowings, and repaid out of revenue using the income generated.

Finance Officer Consulted: Karen Brookshaw Date: 22/09/11

Legal Implications:

- 5.3 The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 gives the council broad powers to regulate traffic and parking through legally enforceable traffic orders. These powers must be exercised to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicles and other traffic (including pedestrians) and the provision of suitable and adequate parking facilities on and off the highway having regard so far as is practicable to
- (a) the desirability of securing and maintaining reasonable access to premises;

- (b) the effect on the amenities of any locality affected including the importance of controlling the use of the roads by heavy commercial vehicles;
 - (c) national air quality strategy;
 - (d) facilitating the passage of public service vehicles and the safety/convenience of persons wishing to use; and
 - (e) any other matters appearing relevant.
- 5.4 In 2001 the council took up the powers of decriminalised parking enforcement (DPE) under The Road Traffic Act 1991, renamed Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) under the Traffic Management Act 2004. Under CPE, parking enforcement is carried out by civil enforcement officers (CEOs) and is the sole responsibility of the local authority.
- 5.5 The use of any surplus income from CPE is governed by section 55 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended. This allows any surplus to be used for transport and highways related projects and expenditure such as supported bus services, concessionary fares and Local transport Plan projects.
- 5.6 When carrying out consultation the Council must ensure that the consultation process is carried out at a time when proposals are still at their formative stage, that sufficient reasons and adequate time are given to allow intelligent consideration and responses and that results are taken into account in finalising the proposals.

Lawyer Consulted:

Carl Hearsom

Date: 01/09/11

Equalities Implications:

- 5.7 An EIA has been carried out on the impact of resident parking schemes. In addition full consultation will be carried out in line with the council's Community Engagement Framework.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.8 Effective parking management contributes to reducing congestion and improving safe access contributing to the promotion of sustainable transport and tackling climate change through reduction in carbon emissions.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.9 The proposed City wide parking review is not expected to have implications on the prevention of crime and disorder

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.10 Any risks will be identified and monitored as part of the overall project management. Parking is a corporate critical budget; however no major risks have yet been identified.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.11 The parking review will contribute mainly to the Sustainable Community Strategy Outcomes of “strengthening communities and involving people” and “promoting sustainable transport”

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 The alternative options for the proposed parking reviews have been considered in the report and set out in the appendices
- 6.2 The alternative to carrying out a longer term City wide parking review consultation is to do nothing. However, the review is an emerging Corporate Priority, therefore it is the recommendation of officers that these proposals are proceeded with for the reasons outlined within the report.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 To seek approval of a revised timetable of parking reviews which will take into account consideration of duly made representations and objections and instruct officers to prepare a city wide review of parking management for the reasons outlined in the report.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

Appendix A Table showing requests for urgent parking reviews and officer comments

Appendix B Timetable of proposed parking reviews

Appendix C Plan drawing showing areas proposed for urgent parking reviews

Appendix D Table of additional requests by residents & other stakeholders for parking reviews or policy changes received in the last 12 months

Documents in Members' Rooms

None

Background Documents

1. Sustainable Community Strategy
2. Parking Annual Report 2010
3. Environment Committee minutes 24 January 2008

