

CAR PARKING REVIEW

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Michael Webb
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Guy Revans
Ward(s) Affected	All
Ward Councillor(s) Consulted	No
Key Decision / Non-Key Decision	Key Decision

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

This report sets out the current parking provision in Bromsgrove District and seeks to provide members with a context within which future car parking provision can be assessed and reviewed.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members consider the report and officers are requested to follow up any actions.

3. KEY ISSUES

3.1 Financial Implications

- 3.1.1 Any changes made to the charging structure will have an impact on the income generated;
- 3.1.2 Total cost of the Off Street parking service is £738k and the budgeted income is £1,234m;
- 3.1.3 Total amount spent on Town Centre/Economic Development activities by BDC includes over £1m of capital receipts on the Town Centre High Street refurbishment and over £300k per annum on Shopmobility, BURT, Economic Development and other improvements to the Town Centre (toilets).

3.2 Legal Implications

- 3.2.1 Bromsgrove District Council operates a system of providing off street parking for residents under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. This legislation allows the Council to designate off street car parks (section 32) and regulate their operation, including the levying of charges, through a local car parking order (section 35). The current parking order in force is the District Council of Bromsgrove (Off-Street Car Parks) Order 2013.

3.2.2 Were Members minded to agree to changes relating to the parking charges the current parking order would need to be updated to reflect the changes. The process for updating the order is prescribed by the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 and requires the Council to give notice of proposed changes in the car parks affected and by issuing a notice in the press. There is a 21 day consultation period following which the final order can be granted. Different rules apply in the event that any objections to the proposals are received. Provided there are no objections the normal length of time needed to amend the car parking order is approximately 6 to 8 weeks.

3.3 Service / Operational Implications

3.3.1 Members should be aware that proposed development within the town on our car parks will for the duration of the construction period have an impact on the parking provision within the town.

3.3.2 Good quality safe car parking should help to support the Council's strategic purpose 'Help me to run a successful business'

3.3.3 Car park charges and operational parking policies are widely considered to impact considerably on the economy. Traders and politicians are quick to attribute the blame for the downturn of some town centres economies on parking provision and enforcement despite the actual reasons being multi-faceted and complex. It should be noted that rent levels, out of town alternatives and the growth of internet shopping all impact on town centres but these issues are often ignored.

3.4 Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

Meetings have not taken place with customers/residents at this stage. Future consultation may form part of proposals for any further investigation by members

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

4.1 There is a risk of negative publicity regarding this report as parking charges are contentious issue nationally.

4.2 There is a risk of a negative financial implication should parking charges be reduced or removed.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Parking Review

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The Bromsgrove District Council (Off-Street Car Parks) Order 2013;
Car Parks review 2010;
Town Health Check December 2012;
Disabled Parking Report 2012.

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APPENDIX 1

Parking Review December 2013