

**Public
Key Decision - Yes**

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Strategic Review of Parking - Off-street Car Parking Strategy: 2018-2023

Meeting/Date: Overview & Scrutiny (P&G) - 2nd October 2018
Cabinet - 18th October 2018

Executive Portfolio: Cllr Beuttell, Executive Cllr for Operations & Regulation

Report by: Parking Services Manager (GM)

Ward(s) affected: All

Executive Summary:

At Overview & Scrutiny: Economy & Growth Panel (O&S:E&G) on the

- 6th April 2017 it was agreed under the agenda item “Strategic Review of Parking - Project Overview” that a Member Task & Finish group should be established to deliver an agreed vision and strategic priorities for car park management and operation. The Task and Finish group membership and outline plan was agreed by the panel recognising the requirements to develop a vision for the parking service that would inform and provide clear direction for the development of a strategy to guide future courses of action.
- 5th October 2017 the Parking Vision developed by the Strategic Review of Parking Task & Finish Group was presented for comment and later endorsed by Cabinet on the 12th October 2017. Following this, the groups focus became the development and delivery of an “Off-Street Car Parking Strategy” for Huntingdonshire District Council.

In its delivery of the “Off-Street Car Parking Strategy: 2018 - 2023”, the Strategic Review of Parking task & Finish group has:

- Collected and considered occupancy information for current and future anticipated usage trends.
- Consulted with Parish & Town Councils on the customer feedback and priorities information collected through our online survey.
- Considered issues surrounding parking within the District.

Developed a Strategy document which will provide direction to Huntingdonshire District Councils Parking Service in the delivery of a service that will promote town centre viability

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Cabinet endorse the “Off-street Car Parking Strategy: 2018-2023” developed by the members of the “Strategic Review of Parking” Task & Finish Group (T&F) to enable Huntingdonshire District Councils Parking Service to work on the delivery of the short-term goals and long-term objectives.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. To seek endorsement for the “Off-street Car Parking Strategy: 2018-2023” developed by the members of the “Strategic Review of Parking” Task & Finish Group.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The Overview & Scrutiny: Economy & Growth (O&S:E&G) agenda item “Strategic Review of Parking - Project Overview” discussed 6th April 2017 by O&S recognised that Huntingdonshire District Council has:

- No agreed vision for the role of car park management and operation.
- No agreed strategic priorities for car park management or operation
- No clear evidence base of user requirements or preference
- Future investment and enhancements to car parks and their operation must be based on an evidence based vision and strategy

3. KEY ACTIONS

6th April 2017

The O&S:E&G panel agreed the purpose and membership of the T&F group for the agenda item “Strategic Review of Parking - Project Overview”.

30th May 2017

The 1st T&F group meeting took place which saw:

- The appointment of a Chairman (Cllr White)
- The appointment of a Vice Chairman (Cllr Dickinson)
- Discussion around the “Strategic Review of Parking” scoping document to ensure that a comprehensive approach is being taken
- A review of the Parking Service “Service Profile Pack” which provided an overview of all service resources and functions
- Analysis of Stakeholders to identify who and when they need to be engaged with as part of the “Strategic Review of Parking”
- A review of the proposed online “parking user survey” to ensure it captured all that was required

30th June 2017

Finalisation of the Parking User Online Survey

3rd July 2017

Parking User Online Survey “Go Live” date.

18th July 2017

- Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) feasibility study scope finalisation with RTA Associates
- HDC requested RTAA to undertake additional “compliance” & “signs and lines” surveys

24th July 2017

Parking Service initial discussion with “Inner Circle Consulting” undertaking the “Growth Masterplan for St Neots”

25th July 2017

CPE feasibility study schedule for onsite surveys agreed (13th to 16th September 2017 - aim to capture “normal” term time behaviours)

26th July 2017

T&F group brief of parking service financial information which sought to understand and separate:

- Statutory costs
- Operational costs (fixed)
- Operational costs (income related)

28th July 2017

Parking Service inception meeting with Steer Davies Gleave (SDG) to undertake the "Development vs Capacity" which saw:

- Discussion into the aims for the study
- An SGD brief on the tasks and approach to be taken
- Agreement on a reporting deadline (end Oct 2017)

8th August 2017

A meeting of the T&F group which saw:

- A brief on HDC parking service discussion with consultants undertaking the "Growth Masterplan for St Neots"
- An update on the ongoing works (CPE Feasibility study & SDG)
- A visioning session comprising of 3 visioning exercises (see appendix 1)

29th August 2017

Agreement for the T&F group to work smarter by developing a parking vision electronically

4th September 2017

A meeting of the T&F group which saw:

- A presentation by SDG on the Development versus Capacity Study.
- Discussion around the presentation to ensure the study addresses all aspects the members of the group feel are required to develop an informed parking strategy

5th September 2017

Parking Service debrief on the Parking User Survey (online)

11th September 2017

Development of previous works by members of the T&F group towards the achievement of a parking vision

27th September 2017

A meeting of the T&F group which saw:

- A presentation of the Parking User Survey results.
- Discussion of the survey results, including how well car park user's views are reflected in the parking vision. The group confirmed they were happy with the parking vision developed.

5th October 2017

The O&S:E&G panel commented on the agreed purpose and membership of the T&F group for the agenda item "Strategic Review of Parking - Project Overview"

25th October 2017

A meeting of the T&F group which saw:

- A review of the stakeholder (Parish & Town Council) feedback received on the user survey results which showed consistency with results of the survey
- Discussion and agreement on the style of framework to be used for the strategy
- Brainstorming of short-term and long-term goals

29th November 2017

A meeting of the T&F group which saw:

- A review of the areas of the vision to assess its fit with the brainstormed short-term and long-term goals

16th January 2018

A presentation to members of O&S (E&G) by RTA Associates on “Civil Parking Enforcement: What is it and what does it entail?”

24th January 2018

A meeting of the T&F group which saw:

- A presentation by RTA Associates on “Civil Parking Enforcement: Feasibility Study”

7th February 2018

A meeting of the T&F group which saw:

- A discussion around the report “Huntingdonshire Parking Analysis Report” summarised within appendix 1 of the Strategy presented
- Agreement from members on the position of CPE as summarised within appendix 3 of the Strategy presented

24th - 30th April 2018

Members of the T&F group were requested to provide comments on the draft strategy document prepared by Officers of HDC’s Parking Service

11th - 18th May 2018

Members of the T&F group were requested to provide comments on the revised draft strategy document prepared by Officers of HDC’s Parking Service so that the final document could be prepared.

21st - 23rd May 2018

Officers of HDC’s Parking Service prepared the version of the strategy document presented with this report.

4. COMMENTS OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

- 4.1 The Panel received the Strategic Review of Parking – Off-street Car Parking Strategy 2018-2023 at its meeting on 2nd October 2018. Members were informed that the strategy will last for a five year cycle at which point there will be an opportunity to refresh and renew the strategy.
- 4.2 A comment was raised as to whether the strategy will aim to increase parking spaces for commuters however, it was explained that that capacity study had established that there is enough capacity until 2030 having considered the increase in housing within the district.
- 4.3 Following comment on had the reduction in size of Bridge Place Car Park been considered, it was stated that the proposal was factored in when the capacity study was carried out.
- 4.4 In response to a question on increasing bay sizes, Members were informed that Officers are to review the design of all car parks and will look at opportunities to

expand bay sizes where possible through more efficient spatial planning.

- 4.5 Various comments were made in relation to fees and charging however, it was explained that the strategy covers the operation of off-street car parking, which the Council has responsibility for. The strategy includes principles which will be referred to in the future should fees and charges be considered. Although it was noted that the Panel agreed with the principle that car park users pay for what they use.
- 4.6 A Member was disappointed that the strategy does not say more to promote sustainable travel. It was explained that support for sustainable travel is in the strategy although it is not explicitly stated.
- 4.7 Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) was mentioned at various stages of the meeting, with questions regarding on-street enforcement. It was explained that the Council considered CPE three years ago through an independent study and that the Task and Finish Group considered it again as a part of its work on the strategy. At both stages it was concluded that it was for the highways authority, Cambridgeshire County Council, to apply to adopt CPE and this could not and should not be done by the District Council alone. The District Council would be limited in its involvement as an agent for enforcement if approached by the County Council to act on their behalf.
- 4.8 Park and ride was suggested as a possible option however, the Panel was informed that the level of investment for a park and ride was considerable and that the size of the District's market towns wouldn't sustain a park and ride.
- 4.9 The Panel recommends that Cabinet endorses the Off-street Car Parking Strategy 2018-2023.

5. KEY RISKS

- 5.1. Failure to endorse the evidence based parking strategy presented will impact the direction and development of the parking service in its support of economic growth and development of our towns.

6. LINK TO THE CORPORATE PLAN

- 6.1. Corporate Plan 2017-2018

Delivering Sustainable Growth KA 24: Deliver a Car Parking Strategy that is supportive of residents, visitors and local businesses.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1. Car park users have been consulted as part of the development of the strategy. A "Parking User Survey" was undertaken from 3rd July 2017 for a period of 6 weeks. This includes the opinions of businesses and stakeholder organisations.
- 7.2. Additional Stakeholder feedback was sought from all Parish & Town Councils within the District to check that the views expressed within the survey match the issues previously presented by Parish & Town Councils.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. The proposed strategy does not have any resource implications. In the next stage of the project (Delivery), Officers will develop proposals to deliver the short-term goals & long-term objectives. The solutions presented for consideration by members may have resource implications which will be stated.

9. REASON(S) FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

9.1. In the development of the “Off-street Car Parking Strategy: 2018- 2023”, members of the “Strategic Review of Parking” Task & Finish Group have:

- Collected and considered occupancy information for current and future anticipated usage trends.
- Consulted with Parish & Town Councils on the customer feedback and priorities information collected through our online survey.
- Considered issues surrounding parking within the District.

9.2. It is felt by the members of the group that the Strategy presented fulfils the requirements of the Corporate Plan Action KA24 (2017/18) and will enable Huntingdonshire District Council’s Parking Service to deliver a service that will promote town centre viability.

10. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED

10.1. Appendix 1 - Off-street Car Parking Strategy: 2018-2023

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1. Overview & Scrutiny: Economy & Growth Panel - Thursday 6th April 2017:
Strategic Review of Car Parking: Project Overview and T&F Scoping Document

<http://moderngov.huntsdc.gov.uk:8070/documents/s85153/Strategic%20Review%20of%20Car%20Parking%20Project%20Overview.pdf>

11.2. Cabinet - Thursday 12th October 2017:
Strategic Review of Car Parking - Parking Vision

<http://moderngov.huntsdc.gov.uk/documents/s88617/Item%205%20-%20Strategic%20Review%20of%20Parking%20Report.pdf>

12. CONTACT OFFICER

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