

**ENVIRONMENT TRANSPORT &
SUSTAINABILITY CABINET
MEMBER MEETING**

Agenda Item 113

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	City Wide Parking Review Interim Report		
Date of Meeting:	4th May 2012		
Report of:	Strategic Director Place		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Owen McElroy	Tel: 293693
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Key Decision:	No		
Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 The City Wide Parking Review (“review”) is an investigation into 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 the review is to seek continuous improvement in the council’s parking management whilst balancing the needs of users overall. The review also seeks to examine the future of controlled parking zones including zone boundaries, changes to zones and new zones which could result in a timetable for future consultation on extensions to existing or additional controlled parking zones.
- 1.2 This report contains a summary of the consultation to date and outlines the next steps

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Cabinet Member notes the progress made on the review to date
- 2.2 That the Cabinet Member notes the summary of issues raised to date
- 2.3 That the Cabinet Member approves the outline plan to complete the review.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 The Cabinet Member for Transport & Public Realm authorised the review on 4th October 2011 and instructed officers to report back on progress within 6 months of commencement
- 3.2 Progress on the review was put on hold whilst the initial report was called in and examined by the Environment and Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 14th October. Having taken evidence from the Cabinet Member and relevant officers ECSOSC agreed to refer the decision back to the Cabinet Member.
- 3.3 At a special ETS CMM on 9 November 2011 the Cabinet Member confirmed that the review was to start immediately and progress to be reported back within 6 months.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The review is in three phases
 1. Initial community engagement phase – identifying and reporting issues Nov 11 – May 12
 2. Main consultation phase in two parts:
 - i. Detailed consultation with stakeholders on issues identified.
 - ii. Sample postal consultation with residents focusing on user satisfaction which can be re-evaluated in 12 months time.
 3. Analysis phase - Re-examination of issues including feedback from the postal consultation which will be used to inform the report to a Committee meeting in early 2013.

Progress to date

- 4.2 Consultation letters have been sent to over a 100 community groups (including all 40 Local Action Teams (LATS) and Tenants Associations).
- 4.3 Representatives of the council have attended 18 community meetings all over the City including 10 LATS engaging with a further 600 residents and businesses with 10 more meetings pending.
- 4.4 Other external stakeholders have been contacted including transport user groups, business organisations and disability groups.
- 4.5 Two workshops and two meetings of ECSOSC were undertaken on the review. See Background documents.
- 4.6 Meetings have been held with West Sussex County Council and the University of Brighton.
- 4.7 All 54 ward members have been contacted about the review.
- 4.8 A summary of stakeholder meetings can be found in Appendix B

Main city wide issues identified during community consultation

- Difficulties in finding a parking space in areas adjoining existing Controlled Parking Zones, in Wish Park and parts of West Hove, Preston Park/Blaker's Park areas. Concerns about displacement from existing schemes.
- Underutilisation of existing zones – request to merge certain zones or allow “cross border” or “over the border” parking
- Parking on grass verges
- Parking on pavements
- Enforcement – perceived to be lacking outside the CPZ and not flexible enough in the City centre, and inadequate around schools
- Parking pressure caused by growth in HMOs/student housing
- The level of parking fees and charges

Issues raised during the community engagement are summarised in Appendix A.

Local issues

- 4.9 These vary according to local conditions but include requests to amend existing parking restrictions e.g. removal of redundant bays or to introduce restrictions at junctions and on narrow roads.
- 4.10 Officers are investigating local issues and taking action or responding to requests for information on a case by case basis, subject to financial constraints.
- 4.11 Whereas the review and community engagement has primarily focused on the management and implementation of residents parking schemes, the next stage consultation will also be able to consider new and wider ongoing issues similar to those outlined above.

Engagement with Scrutiny Committee (ECSOSC)

- 4.12 Scrutiny also raised many of same concerns as the community consultation.
- 4.13 In addition they also asked for; clarity and consistency in parking restrictions and the strategic objectives of parking policy, critical examination of light touch/full scheme options for proposed parking schemes and an evidence/data based approach.
- 4.14 Specific suggestions were additional motorcycle parking spaces, additional pedal cycle spaces, choice of options for users e.g. pay by phone/web alongside cash & cards, radically reducing the area of parking controls e.g. back to City centre or one city wide zone, alternative sources of funding such as workplace parking levies.
- 4.15 Issues raised by Scrutiny are summarised in Appendix A.

Outline Plan

- 4.16 Focus on main topic areas identified during the initial engagement phase.
- 4.17 Continue community and stakeholder engagement noting any important new issues

- 4.18 Conduct sample postal survey in the Summer of residents within existing CPZs asking appropriate questions related to key topics and looking at current levels of satisfaction with parking management, and those residents living outside CPZs looking at parking problems experienced. It is intended to ask as many open questions as possible which will aid needs assessment, identifying the services required and how they can be matched to resources.
- 4.19 Further intelligence gathering from similar highway authorities with regard to parking policies and procedures will be undertaken.
- 4.20 Analyse results and produce recommendations.
- 4.21 Report to the relevant committee in the late Autumn with policy recommendations which may include a further timetable of parking scheme consultations

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 Any revenue costs associated with the review are being met from the commissioning budget for City Regulation and Infrastructure.

Finance Officer Consulted: Name Karen Brookshaw Date: 12/04/12

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 The Council's powers and duties under the Highways Act 1980 and the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 must be exercised to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of all types of traffic including cyclists and pedestrians. As far as is practicable, the Council should have regard to any implications in relation to: - access to premises; the effect on amenities; the Council's air quality strategy; facilitating the passage of public services vehicles; securing the safety and convenience of users; any other matters that appear relevant to the Council
- 5.3 The Council has to follow the rules on consultation issued by the government and the courts. The council needs to ensure that any consultation process is carried out at a time when proposals are still at their formative stage, that sufficient reasons and adequate time must be given to allow intelligent consideration and responses and that results are conscientiously taken into account in finalising the proposals.

Lawyer Consulted: Carl Hearsom

Date: 12/04/12

Equalities Implications:

- 5.5 An EIA has been carried out on the impact of resident parking schemes. Consultation is being conducted in line with the principles of the council Community Engagement Framework. An assessment will be carried out the equalities impact of any proposed policy changes.

Sustainability Implications:

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

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.7 The review is not expected to have implications for the prevention of crime and disorder.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.8 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.

Public Health Implications:

- 5.9 Recommendations arising from the review may help towards reducing motor traffic in the city, and therefore the effect on public health in terms of harmful pollutants (and injuries sustained in collisions) will be beneficial to public health. Nitrogen dioxide, principally emanating from vehicles, is a respiratory irritant which is known to exacerbate asthma. There is a 3.5% increase in mortality for a 100ug/m³ increase in ambient NO₂. There is a 5% increase in hospital asthma conditions for the same increase in NO₂.
- 5.10 **The majority of locally derived pollution comes from either diesel engines or older petrol vehicles. Generally vehicles are more polluting to the local environment if they are heavier, older or run on diesel. Therefore promoting travel choice has to be part of a much more comprehensive air quality action plan. Parking controls are a positive contribution.**

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.11 The review will contribute to the following priorities in the 2011-15 Corporate Plan; tackling inequality, creating a more sustainable city, engaging more individuals and groups across the city. A specific commitment was given to "Review the effectiveness and impact of current parking schemes on the city, for residents, businesses and visitors"

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 The alternative to carrying out the review is to do nothing. However the review is a specific council commitment, therefore it is the recommendation of officers that it is carried out.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 To note the progress to date on the City Wide Parking Review consultation
- 7.2 To seek approval for the next stages of the consultation which are a corporate priority

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Appendix A Summary of issues raised to date
2. Appendix B table of stakeholder meetings

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. None.

Background Documents

1. ETS CMM Report 4 October 2011
2. ECSOSC Scrutiny report 23 January 2012