

Local Members' Interest
N/A

Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee - Friday 18 January 2019

On-Street Parking Strategy and Forward Programme of Pay & Display Parking

Recommendation

- a. That the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee considers the content of the proposed On-Street Car Parking Strategy, including the forward programme of on street pay and display spaces prior to it being issued for consultation and formally adopted.

Report of Helen Fisher, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport

Summary

What is the Select Committee being asked to do and why?

1. Parking is part of all our lives. It affects where we go and how we choose to get there. Parking spaces are needed to help our local economies grow but providing too much parking can encourage car use and have an adverse effect on the quality of life for people living in town centres, the conditions for pedestrians, impact on traffic flow, and cause accessibility issues.
2. The Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee has previously recognised the importance of effective management of on-street parking through civil parking enforcement and requested that the Committee be provided with the opportunity to consider the proposed strategy.

Report

Background

3. Vehicular travel is and for the foreseeable future will remain an important form of transport in a rural shire county such as Staffordshire. In 2013, Cabinet approved a revised set of outcomes for 'Clear Streets' parking enforcement activity, primarily: to maintain and where possible improve the flow of traffic; make streets safer for all road users; consider the needs of local residents, shops and businesses; and actively support accessibility.
4. In 2015, Cabinet approved a set of outcomes for the provision and management of on and off-street parking and for the Cabinet Member for Economy, Environment and Transport to review the current strategy for the introduction of on-street parking charges and develop a new strategy.
5. Cabinet also agreed that the Director of Place (in consultation with the Cabinet Member) be authorised to review, prioritise and implement on-street pay and display spaces at locations previously prioritised by the Local Parking Committees, and to carry out a programme of further reviews of parking within town, market town and village centres to

determine the scope for creating additional on-street parking spaces and how they will be managed.

6. Following a call in and consideration by Corporate Review Committee in July 2015 it was agreed that the Cabinet decision be implemented as set out in the original decision notice with the following additional requirements:
 - a. A list of key stakeholders to be consulted be circulated to the Committee;
 - b. That officers consult directly with relevant town and parish councils (on local reviews) as well as the Staffordshire Parish Council's Association (on the strategy);
 - c. That the implementation of the Car Parking Strategy is scrutinised following consultation by the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee and that it is added to their Work Programme; and
 - d. That the views on implementation be sought from the relevant local district/borough council scrutiny committees.
7. In February 2017, Full Council agreed to the provision of additional on-street charged for spaces in busy town centres as part of service cost reduction options for Infrastructure & Highways.
8. In September 2018, as part of considering the Strategic Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2019-2024, Cabinet proposed additional savings including the further extension of on-street parking charges across the county.
9. Further to all the above:
 - a. The original programme of sites will be fully implemented in the early part of the next financial year (2019/20);
 - b. A draft on-street car parking strategy has been developed;
 - c. A list of key stakeholders to be consulted with has been identified; and
 - d. A proposed forward programme of new locations for on-street charging reviews identified.
10. It is intended that the forward programme of sites will remain a live document and will be reviewed annually by the Director for Economy, Infrastructure and Skills in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport.
11. The core principles that underpin the Car Parking Strategy are:
 - a. A consistent approach to on and off-street parking;
 - b. A well-structured regime for the management (and charging) of on-street parking;
 - c. Parking facilities, arrangements and charging structures that reflect the needs of the individual towns (including free parking); and
 - d. A charging structure that reflects the varying demands of all the users of the services.
12. These core principles will ensure that the parking provided within town centres and elsewhere are appropriate for the situation and support the needs of the local community.

Link to Strategic Plan

13. Staffordshire's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 sets out a vision for a Connected Staffordshire where everyone has the opportunity to prosper, be healthy and happy. It identifies that the people of Staffordshire will:
- a. Access more good jobs and feel the benefits of economic growth
 - b. Be healthier and more independent
 - c. Feel safer, happier and more supported in and by their community.
14. The on-street Car Parking Strategy has an important role to play in delivering this vision providing an opportunity to enhance the quality of life for people living in town centres, improve conditions for pedestrians, ease traffic flow, improve short-term accessibility of town centres, support public transport, and support the local community through effective management of parking spaces.

Community Impact

15. A Community Impact Assessment was carried out for the Cabinet decision in 2015. As this report provides an update and consideration of the draft strategy and forward programme of work an additional assessment of community impact is not considered relevant on this instance. The overall benefits of updating introducing the strategy and forward programme of work supports the delivery county council's Strategic Plan and medium term financial objectives and therefore is deemed to represent an overall positive impact to local communities.

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List of Appendices:

Appendix A – Draft On-street Car Parking Policy and Strategy

Appendix B – Indicative Outline Forward Programme of on-street charging sites

Appendix C – Proposed list of consultees