

*Background Papers, if any, are specified at the end of the Report*

**ANNUAL CAR PARKING REPORT (2012/13)**

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**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1 That Members note this report which under the Traffic Management Act 2004 will be submitted to the Department for Transport.**

**Relationship to Council Objectives**

*Objective 1: Efficient and effective customer focussed services.*

*Objective 3: Conserve the environment and promote sustainability.*

**Implications**

*(i) Not a key decision.*

*(ii) Within the Policy and Budgetary Framework.*

**Financial Implications**

*There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.*

**Risk Implications**

*There are no direct risk implications associated with this report.*

**Equalities Implications**

*Parking for Blue Badge holders is provided throughout all Council owned/managed car parks and national exemptions are provided on-street within the District.*

**Sustainability Implications**

*There are no direct sustainability implications associated with this report.*

**Matters for consideration**

This report was considered by the Housing and Planning Overview Committee on 1 October 2013.

## Report

- 1 It is practice to present Members with an annual report on the overall parking operation. This report was last presented in September 2012.
- 2 Since 2008/9 CDC has to report annually to Central Government on the Council's parking performance and statistics. That information is found as **Appendix .1** and is set out as requested by the Department for Transport.
- 3 Members are asked to note this report which will be forwarded to the Department for Transport in October 2013
- 4 The Council operated 18 car parks in 2012/13, including the Council Office Car Park.
- 5 There was a total availability of 2,521 spaces which includes disabled spaces but excludes the Council Office car park which has a further 177 spaces.
- 6 All of the car parks are owned by this Council with two exceptions: Buryfields Car Park (39 spaces) which is leased from the Great Missenden Parish Council until 2013 and Chesham Station Car Park (179 spaces) which is leased from London Underground on a rolling basis (Chesham Station was taken back by Transport for London in June 2013 and will be reflected in the 2013/14 annual report)
- 7 The last tariff increase was brought into effect on 1 April 2012 which increased the 3, 4 and all day bands only from £1.70, £2.20 and £3.20 to £1.80, £2.40 and £3.50 respectively.
- 8 The Off-Street Car Parking out-turn figures for 2012/13 are set out below.

2011/12 Surplus £		2012/13 Income £	2012/13 Expenditure £	2012/13 Surplus £
(384,936)	Surface Car Parks	(1,116,956)	604,301	(512,655)
(293,324)	Amersham Multi Storey Car Park	(642,545)	307,068	(335,477)
(678,260)	Total	(1,759,501)	911,363	(848,132)

- 9 A surplus of £848,000 is a significant increase in overall outturn on the previous year of £678,000. Members will be aware the 2011/12 annual parking report explained the on-street function had been taken back by BCC in February 2012. The improved outturn is due to:
  1. A review of back office costs reflecting the loss of the on street function reducing costs by £100,000.

2. Reduced direct costs from 50% of the Parking Manager's post previously costed to the off-street account.
  3. The new CEO structure focusing on off-street enforcement will have improved compliance and increased pay and display income. It is not viable to pay for a dedicated CEO for each car park to ensure every driver pays to park, however, by being proactive we ensure more drivers are aware the car parks are enforced and/or we issue parking tickets.
  4. The 2012 Olympics caused the AMSCP to be full for 2 weeks with overflow parking occurring in Sycamore Road. C.£30k additional income is likely to be attributed to this.
- 10 A report on changes to car park charges will be brought forward in January/February 2014.

### **Security Issues**

- 11 The British Parking Association's 'Park Mark' award continues to be maintained in all Chiltern District Council's car parks. This award is presented on behalf of the Association of Chief Police Officers for England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland.
- 12 The Council suffered further pay and display cash thefts in 2012/13. The Council has again been quick to deal with the situation with the machines being fitted with additional software security and a dedicated security response employed. The total losses (repair costs, income loss and mitigation measure) as the year before were in the region of £50k which has reduced the out turn figure accordingly.

### **General**

- 13 The works carried out in car parks since the last annual report consist of.

AMSCP	Structural Condition Surveys.
All Car Parks	Surface Repairs
Albany Place	LED Lighting installed
Blizzards Yard	1 hour free period successfully introduced

- 14 Pay-by-phone continues to be a popular service provision across most car parks particularly for longer stay durations.
- 15 The Chiltern Council pay by phone system has 11,200 customers registered. This saw an increase last year partly from the increased patronage for access to London for the Olympics.

- 16 Cashless methods of parking payment are being investigated such as Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR). This has the potential benefit to improve the offer to the customers, increase compliance, raise income levels, reduce cash handling and introduce a resident band.

### **Health and Safety**

- 17 Equipment and working procedures are continually reviewed and the Council's responsibilities under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 (HASWA 1974) and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (MHSWR 1999) regarding this function are being closely managed.

### **Training**

- 18 To continually offer a high level of service, in what can be very difficult and, in some cases confrontational situations, the CEOs are trained or being trained to NVQ (now City and Guilds) in parking.

### **Parking Facilities for Parents Dropping off School Children – ('Go For Gold')**

- 19 Within the District we currently operate seven 'Go for Gold' schemes. This scheme was approved at the Executive meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2002 (Minute 111). These schemes are designed to enable parents to park free of charge for an agreed time (which depends on the distance from the car park to the school) and then walk their children to school along a designated route.
- 20 Such schemes currently operate within the car parks at Great Missenden (Link Road), at Chesham (Water Meadow), at Chalfont St Peter (Church Lane) and Chalfont St Giles (Blizzards Yard), Amersham (Sycamore Road), Amersham Old Town (Dovecote Meadow) and Prestwood (High Street).
- 21 At the time of writing this report minor operational issues have been addressed with Chalfont St Peter CE Academy scheme which should be operational from September 2013.

### **Charging Hours**

- 22 Charges for the Council's off-street car parks apply from 7.30am to 6.00pm Mondays to Saturdays. Currently no charge is made on Sundays and Bank Holidays in the Council's car parks although Aylesbury Vale DC now charge in some car parks on Sundays. Wycombe DC charge in their busiest car parks on Sundays and Bank Holidays with the rest remaining free. South Bucks DC charge in all car parks during those periods.

### **On-Street Parking**

- 23 On Street parking enforcement is no longer undertaken by Chiltern District Council but under the Highway's Act the District operate the off-street parking order with the consent of the Highway Authority and under the Traffic Management Act we continue to set appropriate on and off street Parking Policies.
- 24 Following the termination of the on-street account Officers from CDC and BCC are now working on appropriate on and off-street Policy arrangements which will be the subject of further reports.

### **Performance**

- 25 Statistics for performance for the off-street parking function between 1 April 2012 and 31 March 2013 can be found in **Appendix .1**
- 26 Appendix 1 shows 5567 PCNs issued off-street (as of 4/7/13) Figures update as cases are closed/paid. No PCNs were issued on-street by Chiltern DC which is now managed and supervised solely by the County Council.
- 27 This shows a significant improvement on last year's statistics which included on-street PCN data. 1,700 more PCNs were issued in 2012/13 with 50 fewer unpaid PCNs. This improvement is a function of the difference between on and off-street enforcement and appeals.

### **Conclusion**

- 28 The 2012/13 outturn was favourable, the Council continued to invest in its car parking asset and indications are strong that the new off-street enforcement model is performing well.

***Background Papers: None***

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