

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Car Park Strategy
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	Councillor Luisa Sullivan
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER</b>	Chris Marchant Head of Environment
<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	Julie Rushton, ext. 6877 <a href="mailto:jrushton@chiltern.gov.uk">jrushton@chiltern.gov.uk</a>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED</b>	All wards

## 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present Members with information regarding a Car Park Strategy for the District of South Bucks, which was presented to Resources PAG on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

## 2. Recommendations:

- 2.1 To introduce a five year car park strategy that sets out the Council's aim and objectives, along with associated parking operations for the district; and
- 2.2 That subject to Cabinet and Full Council approving the strategy, the Head of Environment be authorised to implement the Strategy for the District of South Bucks.

## 2a. Reason for Recommendations

- 2a.1 An effective parking strategy will help to further a wide range of objectives such as, economic vitality of South Bucks Towns and Villages.

## 3. Content of Report

### Strategy

- 3.1 Introducing a car park strategy enables us to openly set out our aims in respect of off street parking in South Bucks, along with the action we propose to take to ensure the car parks meet the needs of the local community. Consultation also enables us to engage with customers and receive feedback to ensure the final document is agreeable to the majority.
- 3.2 The proposed strategy (attached at Appendix A), sets out SBDC's objectives for car parking in the District. This includes supply and demand, car park maintenance, parking charges/season tickets in relation to how the charges are set, and parking for specialists groups etc.
- 3.3 The car park strategy does not set out specific charges, nor will the consultation to implement the strategy invite detailed feedback in this regard. This is because the Council follows the legal process for amending the Off Street Parking Places Order i.e. fees and charges, which includes a statutory consultation.
- 3.4 The strategy does however show that we recognise our customers and thus are able to set objectives that are appropriate, relevant, and beneficial to the residents and local businesses in the area.
- 3.5 In addition, the strategy sets out management of the car parks, along with the enforcement action taken to ensure the parking regulations are adhered to.

- 3.6 To enable customers to have a better understanding of the legalities to introduce/amend parking restrictions, an overview of the legal process has been provided.
- 3.7 Parking is a sensitive issue, particularly the enforcement side. A key element to reduce any misconceptions and promote a fair and consistent approach for all is transparency. This is a key priority for the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG)

#### Parking Report

- 3.8 Currently, there is no mandatory requirement for local authorities to produce an annual parking report, although it is good practise to have one in place. The Operational Guidance for parking enforcement suggests as such.
- 3.9 Attached at Appendix B is the 2016/17 annual parking report for SBDC. The report provides statistical information in relation to parking fines for the year to which the report refers. This includes the number of appeals received in respect of parking fines, the number of fines cancelled due to an appeal, and debt recovery information. The report also provides current information in respect of car park provision and this includes, parking tariffs, season ticket prices etc.
- 3.10 The vision is for the parking report to sit alongside the strategy and provide the detail element. This removes the need for the strategy to be updated during the life of the document, should any changes occur on the car parks, and acknowledges DCLG's request for transparency.
- 3.11 The general period for publicising parking reports is six months after the financial year to which the performance statistics refer. Publishing the data at the same time each year enables true year on year comparisons.

#### **4. Consultation**

- 4.1 Consultation is due to commence with Overview and Scrutiny, Bucks County Council as the highway authority, Thames Valley Police, and the Parish Councils. Notices will also be placed in the car parks.

#### **5. Options**

The options we have submitted for consideration are:

- 5.1 Take the decision not to have a car park strategy.
- 5.2 Approve the strategy in its existing format and agree for consultation to commence.
- 5.3 Approve the strategy in principle, but in a different format, so detail in respect of tariffs etc. are included in the one document. The downside to this option is that as changes occur, the strategy would become dated and regularly require updating.

#### **6. Corporate Implications**

##### 6.1 Legal Implications

The purpose of the document is to clarify the Council's car parking policy and thereby reduce the risk of a challenge to future decisions regarding the car park estate.

6.2 Financial Implications

There are no known financial implications to introducing the car park strategy.

**7. Links to Council Policy Objectives**

- 7.1 SBDC's car parks contribute to the Council's medium term aim of planning for a thriving and sustainable South Bucks, with vibrant towns and villages.
- 7.2 This matter also contributes towards the Council's aim to deliver value for money services driven by customer and community needs.

**8. Next Step**

- 8.1 If the recommendations are agreed officers will commence consultation to implement the strategy

<b>Background Papers:</b>	None other than referred to in this report
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