

Report to	-	Cabinet
Date	-	9 April 2018
Report of the	-	Executive Director of Business Operations
Subject	-	Civil Parking Enforcement

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 19 March 2018, considered a report on Civil Parking Enforcement. The recommendation and minute arising is reproduced below.

Recommendation to COUNCIL: That the following recommendations be approved:

- 1) Rother District Council write to East Sussex County Council to support an application to be submitted to the Department for Transport for Civil Parking Enforcement to be adopted;
- 2) the recommendation for East Sussex County Council to recover costs from Wealden District Council not be supported;
- 3) the current charging structure and tariffs in Rother District Council's off-street car parks remain unchanged until the Civil Parking Enforcement decision is taken;
- 4) the Council's off-street parking provision remain under the current management framework of The District of Rother Parking Places Order 1983;
- 5) when the Council's Planning Core Strategy is reviewed, Electric Vehicle Charging Points be considered in planning policy, and subject to government advice received, as well as technological and industry advances;
- 6) the indicative timetable for Civil Parking Enforcement be noted;
- 7) future East Sussex County Council consultation on the detail of the Traffic Regulation Orders changes, includes liaison with the affected Ward Members to obtain the Council's comments for their areas;
- 8) the Civil Parking Enforcement Task and Finish Group be reconvened six months after Civil Parking Enforcement was adopted to consider the impact of the Civil Parking Enforcement Scheme in preparation for the first annual review;
- 9) during the first annual review, the Car Parking Review Working Group be reconvened to consider assessment of the impact of Civil Parking Enforcement on the usage and charging structure of the Council's off-street parking operation; and
- 10) Rother District Council notify Sussex Police of the recommendation to Cabinet and full Council that the Council support East Sussex County Council making an application for Civil Parking Enforcement and that in the interim the Police continue to carry out enforcement of illegal and dangerous parking.

OSC17/51. **CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT: RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT TASK AND FINISH GROUP**

The Chairman welcomed Michael Horton and Carl Valentine of East Sussex County Council (ESCC) to the meeting, as well as Councillor Ian Hollidge, the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Environment, Transport and Bexhill Town Centre.

Councillor Elford, the Civil Parking Enforcement Task and Finish Group (CPET&FG) Chairman introduced the report and briefly advised the Committee of the various tasks the CPET&FG had completed and principal key findings made since its inception, as well as recommendations proposed. He also thanked his fellow CPET&FG Members for their contributions and ESCC / Rother officers who had supported the meetings.

The recommendations were a result of a culmination of work commenced in October 2017 by the CPET&FG, flowing from evidence gathered and information provided by ESCC, stakeholder engagement and other findings from work over the last six months.

In November 2015, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) agreed to review on-street parking. On-street parking was currently the responsibility of Sussex Police. However due to the other policing priorities, Sussex Police would only undertake parking enforcement, if infringements were considered dangerous. By adopting Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE), ESCC would take over responsibility for parking enforcement from Sussex Police. It would also enable ESCC to deal with all common parking issues and retain fine income to fund enforcement and improve the local transport network.

The report identified what the CPE process encompassed which included a submission to the Department of Transport, review of the current Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO), two-year timeframe for implementation, as well as a consultation process on the proposed scheme. A copy of the proposed scheme and indicative timetable was appended to the report as Appendices 2 and 3 respectively. Members were reminded introducing additional TROs to the current scheme could further delay the CPE process, as comprehensive consultation, agreement from relevant organisations and ministerial approval would need to be completed and sought. Objections might also be received which could further delay the process. Once CPE was introduced, annual reviews would be undertaken to consider the effectiveness / practicalities of the scheme. Therefore, suggestions for alterations would be considered and consulted on at that time.

Gathering evidence was a fundamental part of the CPET&FG's Terms of Reference (ToR). An engagement event was held in November 2017, where a number of organisations attended to present their views on the introduction of CPE across the district. Written responses were also received and the Chairman of CPET&FG attended meetings of Bexhill Town Forum and Rother Association of Local Councils. Overall, stakeholders were in favour of ESCC applying to adopt CPE and recognised that parking infringements were not considered a

priority for Sussex Police. Despite a few concerns being aired regarding on-street charging, stakeholders agreed that the scheme should be self-financing.

The CPET&FG also reviewed current management of the Council's off-street car parks, including charging structures and the legislation under which they operated, and provision of electric vehicle charging points across the South East.

The Chairman led Members through each recommendation and during the discussion the following salient points were noted:

- Members were disappointed to note that Wealden District Council (WDC) had decided not to pursue CPE. As a result, it was noted that there would be no additional costs to Rother, however proposed economies of scale would not be realised and pay-back time extended. Recommendation 2) was not supported.
- Members agreed that operation of off-street parking remained under the control of the Council's current legislation.
- Members agreed that prior to making a decision on electric vehicle provision the Council should await further Government guidance.
- Members were led through the indicative timetable and noted each of the different stages.
- Members requested that information on the changes to the TROs be provided on a Ward by Ward basis. ESCC confirmed that this was achievable and could be provided.
- Members requested that Recommendation 8) be reworded to state that the CPET&FG be reconvened six months after CPE was adopted to consider the impact of the CPE Scheme in preparation for the first annual review.
- Members requested that Recommendation 9) be reworded to state that during the first annual review, the Car Parking Review Working Group be reconvened to assess the impact of CPE on the usage and charging structure of the Council's off-street parking operation.

After discussion, it was agreed that all of the recommendations be approved for Cabinet ratification apart from ESCC attempting to recover shared costs with WDC. An additional recommendation was also proposed to notify Sussex Police that the Council supported ESCC making an application for CPE and that in the interim the Police continue to enforce illegal and dangerous parking.

ESCC advised that once formal commitment was received and during the interim period before the scheme was operational, all current parking restriction signage and yellow lines would be refreshed.

Members acknowledged the benefits of introducing CPE to the district which included potential income to improve the local transport network, positive impact on the economy and environment, as well as reduced congestion and reduction of illegal and inconsiderate parking.

The Chairman thanked Michael Horton and Carl Valentine for attending and supporting all of the CPE meetings.

(Councillors J. Barnes, C.A. Clark, S.H. Earl, S.D. Elford and K.M. Field each declared a personal interest in this matter in so far as they are elected Members of East Sussex County Council and in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct remained in the room during consideration thereof).

(Overview and Scrutiny Committee Agenda Item 6.1).

Dr Anthony Leonard
Executive Director of Business Operations