

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD

21 September 2020

**Report of the Director of Street Scene, Leisure & Technical Services
and Director of Finance & Transformation**

Part 1- Public

Matters For Decision

1 ON-STREET PARKING UPDATE

Summary

This report updates Members on the proposed timescale for the implementation of the changes to on-street parking charges, and also updates on Phases 11 and Phase 12 of the Parking Action Plan, and the larger parking reviews including Kings Hill, Hadlow and Hildenborough. The recommendations take into account the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

1.1 On-Street PARKING Charges

- 1.1.1 At the previous meeting of this Board on the 9th March 2020, Members considered a report and agreed recommendations to the Borough Council's Cabinet to allow the progression of formal consultation in relation to on-street parking fees and charges across the Borough.
- 1.1.2 The recommendations from this Board were due to be considered at the Cabinet meeting on the 17 March 2020. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic this meeting was cancelled and at the 3 June 2020 meeting of Cabinet the decision was taken to defer until the next annual cycle of charges review.
- 1.1.3 The timescale for this next cycle is relatively short as we would seek to align the off-street and on-street charging regime timescales as much as possible. A copy of the previously proposed on street parking charges is attached in **Annex 1**.
- 1.1.4 The next step is for the formal consultation to proceed this October/November and the outcome to be reported back to the 8 March 2021 meeting of this Board.
- 1.1.5 Recommendations would then be made to Cabinet with any changes approved being implemented in April 2021.

1.2 Parking Action Plan – Phase 11

- 1.2.1 Phase 11 of the Parking Action Plan was reported to the March 2020 meeting of this Board and has progressed to its implementation stage. Delivery of the works have been delayed due to Covid-19.

1.2.2 Phase 11 has now been passed to contractors for delivery and we anticipate this being complete by November 2020. This includes the introduction of new on street charging areas in the upper parts of Tonbridge High Street.

1.3 Parking Action Plan - Phase 12

1.3.1 The Phase 12 of the Parking Action Plan was reported to the June meeting of the Board.

1.3.2 We have now completed the initial investigation and design work. This has enabled us to enter into informal consultation with those directly affected by any proposals. The outcome of this consultation will be reported back to the 23 November 2020 meeting of the Board.

1.4 Parking Reviews

1.4.1 In addition to the Phased Parking Action Plans, the Borough Council has agreed a programme of Parking Reviews, where more complex issues or packages of measures can be addressed.

1.4.2 There are currently three Parking Reviews under way, Kings Hill, Hadlow and Hildenborough, with a future review programmed for Snodland.

1.5 Kings Hill

1.5.1 The parking issues in Kings Hill cover a number of locations across the village, with a variety of issues relating to the style of the development and the number of adopted and private roads.

1.5.2 In liaison with the local Members, the Parish Council and Liberty Property, Officers have reviewed the programme and approach to be taken for Kings Hill. Given the potential on-going phases of this review, the decision was taken to address the main distributor roads first.

1.5.3 The initial proposals for this first phase of work have been through the informal consultation process and the responses are summarised in **Annex 2**.

1.5.4 Kings Hill Parish Council did respond through our online consultation platform. The detail of their response is shown in **Annex 3** and has been considered during the analysis of responses and included in the summaries shown in **Annex 2**.

1.5.5 The responses show a mixed but broadly supportive response from residents. There was, however, a frequent comment that parking restrictions would make the parking situation worse. Whilst the comment is understandable, it may also be the case that a number of residents are currently taking advantage of parking against the Highway Code, close to junctions and where it causes problems. These residents may have to find more suitable parking elsewhere which is less convenient, or use their own off-street parking facilities.

- 1.5.6 There were a number of comments to do more and to go further into the residential areas (it is our intention to address these areas in further iterations of the parking review).
- 1.5.7 The next steps for the Kings Hill review are for the minor alterations to proposals in Queen Street, Discovery Drive and Regent Way to be considered and the plans adjusted accordingly, and then to proceed to formal consultation on the proposals.
- 1.5.8 We will look to carry out the formal consultation this autumn with a report on the outcome of the consultation coming back to this Board early next year.

1.6 Hadlow (and Golden Green)

- 1.6.1 The Council has developed proposals for parking restrictions across Hadlow (and Golden Green) and is ready for informal consultation with residents and the Parish Council.
- 1.6.2 We will look to carry out the informal consultation this autumn with a report on the outcome of the consultation coming back to this Board early next year.

1.7 Hildenborough

- 1.7.1 Initial proposals have been developed for Hildenborough and discussed in outline with the local Members. The issues are complex due to competing demands for residential, business, commuter and school parking.
- 1.7.2 The next step is to discuss the proposals with the Parish Council in an informal context prior to carrying out the first round of consultation with residents on the proposals.

1.8 Snodland

- 1.8.1 Parking in Snodland is to be looked at as part of a review, aimed at addressing concerns about the conflicting needs of residents, shoppers, workers in the town and commuters taking advantage of the high speed rail link.
- 1.8.2 This is likely to require significant survey work and assessment and we may look to place this with consultants to take this review forwards in a timely manner.
- 1.8.3 We hope to progress this early in 2021 as we will need parking habits and behaviours to return to some degree of new normality before any survey work is undertaken.

1.9 Legal Implications

- 1.9.1 The powers allowing the Borough Council to carry out parking management activity are contained in the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, supplemented by formal agreement with Kent County Council as the Local Highway Authority, in respect of its powers under the Traffic Management Act 2004. In particular,

section 122 of the Road Traffic Regulation 1984 Act imposes a general duty on local authorities exercising functions under the Act to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic (including pedestrians) and the provision of safe and adequate parking facilities on and off the highway.

- 1.9.2 The Borough Council carries out parking enforcement under an Agency agreement with Kent County Council by way of a Traffic Regulation Order, under the terms of the Road Traffic Act 1988 (and its amendments), the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and the Traffic Management Act 2004.
- 1.9.3 Changes to parking charges are made via an Amendment Orders to the Council's on and off-street parking Traffic Regulation Orders, using the procedures set out in the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 and will reflect any temporary amendments to procedures introduced to address Covid-19 restrictions.

1.10 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.10.1 The review of the on-street car parking fees and charges was progressed within the context of a set of guiding principles, the cost of the parking service to the Council and ongoing investment in the parking management service. Details were reported to the September 2019 meeting of the Street Scene & Environment Services Advisory Board.
- 1.10.2 Clearly the Covid-19 pandemic will result in different user patterns in relation to parking. The full extent of this impact in the changing habits of users will not be known for some time as businesses and users make changes to the way they move and operate within the Borough.
- 1.10.3 Funding to implement works associated with the Parking Action Plan Phase 11 and 12 is provided within existing revenue budgets.

1.11 Risk Assessment

- 1.11.1 The comprehensive assessment and consultation process applied to Parking Action Plans provides the assurance that the Borough Council has the will and ability to adapt proposals brought forward, in the light of comment and circumstances, and to ensure that it achieves a best balance of local parking needs. A regular review of the schemes is crucial to ensure that the Council correctly and effectively manages on-street parking in these areas, as the proposals are either introduced for safety reasons or to provide a more appropriate balance of parking needs.
- 1.11.2 A major risk is that scheme proposals encounter significant lack of local support. This risk is mitigated by the considerable effort devoted to ensuring there is widespread consultation on proposals both informally and formally. There is also care given to ensuring that schemes are adjusted and adapted in the light of

comments and observations received from the local community, without compromising safety.

1.12 Equality Impact Assessment

1.12.1 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

1.12.2 Blue Badge holders can park free of charge in the Council's car parks for up to 23 hours. For Blue Badge holders living in a parking permit area, a Resident Parking Permit is not required as long as the valid Blue Badge and clock is correctly displayed. The Blue Badge scheme has recently been extended by Central Government to include people with "hidden disabilities". This includes people with learning disabilities, autism and mental health conditions.

1.13 Policy Considerations

1.13.1 Asset Management

1.13.2 Communications

1.13.3 Community

1.13.4 Customer Contact

1.14 Recommendations

1.14.1 It is **RECOMMENDED** to the Borough Council Cabinet that:

- i) consultation for the proposed on-street parking fees and charges be progressed as outlined in the report, with the outcome reported back to the 8 March 2021 meeting of this Board;
- ii) the outcome of the Phase 12 parking action plan informal consultation be reported to the next meeting of this Board; and
- iii) the Kings Hill Parking Review be progressed to formal consultation taking into account the informal consultation responses (Annex 2) with minor alterations to proposals on Queen Street, Discovery Drive and Regent Way.

Background papers:

contact: Andy Edwards

Annex 1 – Copy of proposed charges
Annex 2 - Kings Hill informal consultation summaries

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