

**SUBMISSION TO ECONOMIC GROWTH, ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (OVERVIEW
AND SCRUTINY) COMMITTEE**

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Agenda Item: 11

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SUBMISSION BY DIRECTOR OF DEMOCRATIC, DEVELOPMENT AND LEGAL SERVICES

UPDATE REPORT ON VARIOUS PARKING MATTERS

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide updated information on the operation of the District Council operated car parks and on progress with the preparation of a parking strategy for Lichfield District.
- 1.2 To inform members of the current position regarding on street parking enforcement in the District

2. Summary of developments since the January 2015 Committee meeting

- 2.1 Car park business in this period has remained stable compared with the same period in the previous year.
- 2.2 The Bird Street resurfacing scheme has been completed. Local traders were kept informed throughout and the project did not attract the number of complaints that might otherwise have been expected.
- 2.3 A Parking Policy document is being prepared. A draft of the strategy will be circulated for comment in due course.
- 2.4 As detailed in earlier reports to this committee, Staffordshire County Council (SCC) chose to end the joint enforcement arrangements for on and off street Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) from the end of March this year. The County Council has subsequently entered into a partnership with Stoke on Trent City Council to deliver on street enforcement across the County. In response to a request from various local authorities, David Walters, the Regulation and Governance Manager for SCC, has provided the following progress update –

“From 1st April 2015 on-street enforcement activities county wide are being carried out through a Clear Streets partnership between Staffordshire County Council and the City of Stoke-on-Trent Council.

Requests for the review of parking related issues and restrictions are now being prioritised through the County Council’s Divisional Highway Programme. The development of each Divisional Highway Programme is led by the local county councillor and focused on their division. Working with the Community Highway Manager, they liaise closely with parish council and other local bodies, to ensure local concerns are identified and actions prioritised. This ensures that power and responsibility remains closer to the local community. The agreed priorities are included

in a clear, transparent and carefully co-ordinated work programme. Everyone knows what to expect and the highways team are able to focus their actions on delivering established priorities at greater pace. Twice a year the local county councillor leads a review of progress and priorities – keeping the programme in balance, and continuing to respond to local needs and financial realities.

Further information is provided on the County Councils webpages in a new area dedicated to parking.

<http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/transport/parking/home.aspx> “

- 2.5 Lichfield District Council has entered into an arrangement with the City of Stoke Council to deliver enforcement functions on its off street car parks from the 1st April 2015.
- 2.6 The new arrangement did experience some teething problems particularly with regard to IT issues but these appear to have now been resolved and District Council officers continue to monitor delivery and meet regularly with the management of the new operation to ensure appropriate service delivery.
- 2.7 Enforcement on the car parks and on street throughout the southern and eastern parts of Staffordshire continues to be delivered/coordinated from the Council’s Burntwood depot, the SCC/S-o-T partnership having taken over the rental of the existing parking offices on a commercial basis.
- 2.8 As approved by Cabinet, this arrangement is to last for an initial period of twelve months. Future arrangements after this date will be considered in light of the developing Parking Strategy document referred to above.

3. Community Benefits

- 3.1 The parking enforcement operation continues to contribute to the smooth running of the car parking estate and helps to ensure the continuity of this important income stream.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 That on behalf of the Committee, officers continue to monitor the off street parking operation in order to ensure best value and customer satisfaction.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 The off street car parking operation operates within the budget framework approved by Cabinet.
- 5.2 All costs and liabilities relating to on street parking now lie with Staffordshire County Council

6. Plan for Lichfield District Implications

- 6.1 A sustainable, clean and safe environment. Continuing off street enforcement should ensure a reduction in abuses of the parking order and in the potential for crime on the car parks.
- 6.2 A thriving economy. An adequate and well managed supply of parking spaces is essential to all local businesses in particular those involved in the retail sector.

6.3 A good place to live. Customer surveys have shown that the availability of parking is important to our residents.

6.4 A better quality of life. Legitimate car park users will continue to be guaranteed equal access to parking spaces.

7. Sustainability and Climate Change Issues

7.1 None identified

8. Human Rights Issues

8.1 It is important that reserved disabled parking bays be monitored to ensure continued availability to legitimate users.

9. Crime and Community Safety Issues

9.1 The continuing presence of uniformed patrols on the car parks is thought to be useful in bringing about a reduction in the level of crime and disorder and also in the fear of crime.

10. Risk Management Issues

Risk	Likelihood/ Impact	Risk Category	Countermeasure	Responsibility
Reputational risk if the level of on street service provided by SCC does not meet that previously delivered	Low/High	Reputational	Management actions required to ensure satisfactory service delivery levels equal or better than those experienced under the previous regime.	The decision to cancel the previous arrangement lay with SCC and as they are the Highway Authority continuity of cover is its responsibility.

Report checked and approved:

Strategic/Corporate Director