

Subject: Restrictions for Council Car Parks

Status: For Publication

Report to: Cabinet

Date: 29th July 2010

Report of: Head of Regeneration

Portfolio

Holder: Regeneration

Key Decision: Yes

Forward Plan General Exception Special Urgency

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider the reintroduction of parking restrictions on Council owned Car Parks

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 2.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities:-
- Delivering quality Services to our customers
 - Encouraging healthy and respectful communities
 - Keeping our Borough clean, green and safe
 - Promoting the Borough
 - Providing value for money services

3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:
- There are some reputation risks relating to the reintroduction of parking restrictions. It will be unpopular with those who have taken advantage of the current unlimited parking time on Council Car Parks. However, this can be mitigated with the concern of businesses and community members which has been expressed through the Neighbourhood Forums regarding the limited availability of parking spaces.

4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

- 4.1 During 2009, Lancashire County Council undertook a review of the car parking enforcement contract which resulted in the responsibility for enforcing on-street parking restrictions returning to the County Council.
- 4.2 At the same time, concern was expressed from the business community that existing car park restrictions were having a negative effect on the retail economy as potential customers were being 'put off' by the limited parking time.
- 4.3 A report was presented to Cabinet in June 2009 examining the options available to the Council for future enforcement. The recommendation approved at Cabinet was that Car Parking Restrictions across the Borough should be suspended and that the situation kept under review.
- 4.4 Since that time concern has been raised by members of the public and at meetings of the Neighbourhood Forums that much of the available parking space was being taken cars left for substantial periods or 'all day'.
- 4.5 The Neighbourhood Forums for Rawtenstall and Haslingden have recommended that parking restrictions should be re-introduced with, if possible, a 3 hour parking limit. These forums cover the areas of Rawtenstall, Crawshawbooth, Waterfoot and Haslingden.
- 4.6 It should be noted that parking restrictions were never introduced in Bacup and this issue has not been raised at the neighbourhood forum.
- 4.7 The Council has only one car park in Whitworth and parking restrictions have not been raised as an issue in the Forum.
- 4.8 Lancashire County Council remain responsible for enforcing restrictions for on-street parking and enquiries have been made to ascertain whether they would be able to carry out a parking enforcement service for Council Car Parks.
- 4.9 The County Council have indicated that they would be prepared to consider this as an extension to their current role. They have suggested that they could undertake the service at no additional cost based on a 2 hour parking restriction. However, they would have to consider the implications of the introduction of a 3 hour parking restriction may result in a cost for the service in the region of £5,000 to £10,000 per annum.
- 4.10 If Members wish to pursue the recommendations from the Neighbourhood Forums to re-introduce parking restrictions on Council Car Parks, further negotiations would need to take place with Lancashire County Council to reach an acceptable service agreement.

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:

5. SECTION 151 OFFICER

- 5.1 Any financial implications arising have not been provided for within the Council's current budget resources.
- 5.2 It is understood that Lancashire County Council will retain all penalty income generated as a result of enforcement procedures. On past experience, under the 2 hour restriction, income generated could be in the region of £80k per annum.

6. MONITORING OFFICER

- 6.1 If the recommendation is approved a suitable Service Level Agreement with the County to deliver parking enforcement services would be required to ensure the service is run effectively.

7. HEAD OF PEOPLE AND POLICY (ON BEHALF OF THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE)

- 7.1 No HR implications.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 Whilst, the suspension of parking restrictions on Council Car Parks was welcomed at the time, turnover of spaces are increasingly limited because of users using the car parks as all day spaces.
- 8.2 Concern has also been raised through the Neighbourhood Forums about the lack of adequate parking facilities and a recommendation made that restrictions should be reintroduced.
- 8.3 In view of this it is timely to consider the re-introduction of restrictions in the areas covered by the Rawtenstall and Haslingden Neighbourhood Forums.

9. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 9.1 That parking restrictions are re-introduced to the areas covered by the Rawtenstall and Haslingden Neighbourhood Forums.
- 9.2 That delegated authority is granted to the Director of Business in consultation with the Head of Regeneration to negotiate an appropriate Service Level Agreement with Lancashire County Council to deliver parking enforcement services based upon a 3 hour restriction.

10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

- 10.1 Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Neighbourhood Forums.

11. COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is a Community Impact Assessment required Yes
Is a Community Impact Assessment attached Yes

12. BIODIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment required No
Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment attached No

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No Background Papers