REPORT OF: **CAR PARKING REVIEW TEAM**

REPORT TO: **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

ON: **9 NOVEMBER 2006**

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MANAGEMENT OF CAR PARKING IN THE BOROUGH

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INTRODUCTION

The Car Parking Review Team is grateful for the co-operation and assistance it received from the Engineering Services Manager, Traffic and Parking Manager, and the Finance Officer.

At the Development, Regeneration & Environment Committee meetings held on 23 November 2003 and January 2004, it was resolved to introduce charges on some car parks in Rawtenstall, but this did not happen.

At a Policy Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting in January 2006, the Head of Street Scene and Liveability submitted a report which contained options for consideration by Members, designed at improving the management of Council car parks and to ensure equal control on car parks in Rossendale.

Due to the nature and complexity of the work it was felt necessary to give full consideration to car parking provision throughout the Borough and therefore, the Committee agreed to set up a Review Team to look at the issue.

At its first meeting the Review Team agreed the following Terms of Reference

- To identify the public car parks throughout the Borough and to make a preliminary assessment of their condition
- To determine the current budget allocation for maintenance, (including the impact of any existing financial arrangements with Parkwise/LCC, and to determine its accuracy
- To identify the extent, if any, of the increase in budget allocation necessary to ensure a satisfactory standard of car parks
- To identify the different parking regulations in each town in the Borough
- To provide parking facilities that match the requirements of residents, visitors and business after consultation
- To consider the adequacy of the current regulations
- To make recommendations for change to the current regulations where this is deemed necessary (what criteria do we use to determine which

category of user should have precedence ie short/long term; what criteria to determine whether or not to charge?)

- To make recommendations to secure the continued maintenance of car parks to a satisfactory standard in terms of budgetary provision
- To make recommendations to LCC, if appropriate, in respect of Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs), which may deemed necessary as a result of any changes to current car park regulations

The remit of the Review Team was to look at the way in which the car parks were managed, how urgent maintenance works to improve the car parks could be funded and what options were available to improve the way in which the car parks are managed in the future. What was not included was a review of parking in the street. This is the responsibility of the Highway Authority, namely Lancashire County Council (LCC.

The Review Team started with a blank sheet. Nothing was ruled in and nothing ruled out. The objective was to make recommendations that would be best for the Borough, so that the car parks could be improved, so that drivers with disabilities, visitors, shoppers, customers, traders, workers and commuters would all be catered for whilst improving access to the town centres. This would help encourage new visitors to the towns and contribute in the Council's priority of promoting Rossendale.

The Review Team engaged with the public by attending the Area Forums in the four areas of the Borough (Haslingden including Edenfield and Helmshore, Rawtenstall, Whitworth and Bacup). These took place in March 2006 and the public were invited to comment on how to improve the management of car parks so that views could be fed into this report. They also went along to other Local Authorities to look at how they managed their facilities. They also held meetings in Waterfoot and Crawshawbooth to discuss with residents and businesses their concerns in relation to both car parking and on-street parking.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Cabinet are recommended to agree the following;

1. That the resolution agreed in November 2003 and January 2004 should not be implemented.

2. That the Review Team continue to oversee the implementation of the Car Park Improvement Programme - doing this will, we hope will ensure that over the coming years the people of Rossendale will see continued improvements in the provision of car parking within the Borough.

3. That the Parking Strategy be considered at a future meeting of the review team

4. That the option set our in pages 11 and 12 and the tariff structure set out below, be agreed.

That the preferred option of the Review Team is

Tariff Structure

Long Stay Car Parks – All day free

Short Stay Car Parks, Max Stay 5 hours

Length of Stay	Tariff
First Hour	FREE
Up to 2 hrs	40p
Up to 3 hrs	£1.00
Up to 4 hrs	£2.00
Up to 5 hrs	£3.00

5.   That all revenue from the above charges be ring-fenced to fund improvements to all car parks in the Borough.

6.   That no hackney carriage and/or private hire vehicles be allowed to park on short stay car parks between the hours of 8am-6pm

7.   That, (in line with Lancashire County Council Mobility Guidelines) additional disabled parking spaces be increased subject to a more detailed report to be presented to Cabinet in consultation with the Chair

8.   That the existing off-street parking places order be amended to include all car parks to allow enforcement where necessary, especially on disabled parking spaces.

9.   That the Review Team work in partnership with Lancashire Locals to investigate the issue on the requirement for additional facilities for cycle, motorcycle and coach parking for the Borough and they be requested to report back on findings.

10.   That the need for Residents' Parking Schemes be considered no sooner than six months after the implementation of extended off-street controls.

11.   That partnership working be continued and a pro-active approach is adopted to find new partners as and when opportunities arise.

Conclusion

The Review Team recommend the above recommendations to Cabinet.

For information a comprehensive report on the work of the review team is submitted in support of these recommendations.