

Cherwell District Council

Executive

2 September 2019

Car Parking Strategy

Report of the Assistant Director: Environmental Services

This report is public

Purpose of report

To present to Executive the work of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee in developing a car parking strategy with an action plan.

1.0 Recommendations

The Executive is recommended:

- 1.1 To note the work of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee in developing a Car Parking Strategy
- 1.2 To support the development of a Car Parking Strategy by approving the draft strategy and action plan for public consultation
- 1.3 To consider the proposed Car Parking Strategy & Car Parking Action Plan again later in the municipal year following consideration of comments from the public consultation.

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 Members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee set up a Task and Finish Group to examine car parking. The car parking management contract with Apcoa had commenced in June 2017 and the performance of the new arrangements could be reviewed to help set the future strategy of car parking.
- 2.2 A number of Task and Finish meetings were held with the first meeting being 4 September 2018. Further meetings followed 9 October 2018 & 5 December 2018. A further meeting took place on 6 March 2019.
- 2.3 A wide range of issues were presented by officers including income, costs, the Apcoa contract, car parking usage, benchmarking charges against nearby towns and civil parking enforcement.

- 2.4 From Member suggestions and following consultations meetings with Banbury BID, Bicester Vision and Kidlington Parish Clerk a draft Car Parking Strategy with Action Plan has been developed
- 2.5 The proposed Car Parking Strategy with Action Plan are in the Appendices 1 & 2
- 2.6 A key part of the new strategy is to explore Civil Parking enforcement with Oxfordshire County Council, South Oxfordshire District Council and Vale of White Horse Council. A project team has been set up and a consultant to advise on the full range of implications, costs and risks is being appointed.
- 2.7 The Council has an enforcement arrangement with Thames Valley Police which runs until September 2019. This Council funds a PCSO, at £30k/year and a full time equivalent PCSO carries out traffic enforcement. Appendix 5 sets out the number of tickets issued. The intention is to continue with this arrangement until April 2021 to allow time to fully explore civil car parking enforcement

3.0 Report Details

- 3.1 This Council operates a large number of car parks in Banbury, Bicester and in Kidlington. They generate a substantial source of income, around £1.8 million per annum but there are also significant operating costs to ensure the car parks are operated safely and meet the needs of all the different users.
- 3.2 In June 2017 the operation of the car parks was outsourced to Apcoa for an initial five year period. The implementation of this new contract has meant some significant changes such as new car parking machines which not only allow card & contactless payment but also provide much more data on car parking usage.
- 3.3 These changes allowed elected members to review the successes of the new arrangements and to help set a new car parking strategy for the future.
- 3.4 Following four meetings of the Task and Finish group consultations meeting were set up with Banbury BID and Bicester Vision, The consultation slides are in Appendix 3 & Appendix 4.

4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1 The Task and Finish group have considered the new car parking arrangement with Apcoa and have developed a proposed Car Parking Strategy and Action Plan.
- 4.2 The proposed strategy has now been brought forward to Executive. Following Executive member comments, a public consultation will take place and finally an equalities impact assessment will also be carried out. The final Strategy and Action Plan should come back to the Executive for final approval and adoption later in 2019/20.

5.0 Consultation

Task and Finish group Overview & Scrutiny

Banbury BID
Bicester Vision
Kidlington Parish Clerk
Overview & Scrutiny Committee

6.0 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

6.1 The following alternative options have been identified

Option 1: To recommend the continued development of the new Car Parking Strategy & Action Plan.

Option 2: To reject the Car Parking Strategy & Action Plan and ask officers to reconsider the strategy.

7.0 Implications

Financial and Resource Implications

7.1 Car Parking is a significant source of income to the Council. The proposed strategy has no immediate impact on this income but any changes will be considered in future business planning cycles.

Comments to be checked by:
Kelly Wheeler Principal Accountant, 01327 32230,
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Legal Implications

7.2 There are no legal implications with the adoption of this strategy.

With outsourcing of the council's parking management service outsourced to Apcoa, officers have rightly liaised with that company in formulating the parking strategy it wishes to present to the Executive, which is the appropriate forum for approval.

Comments checked by:
Richard Hawtin, Team Leader: Non-contentious, Email:
richard.hawtin@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk, Telephone: 01295 221695

Risk Implications

7.3 Car Parking can be an area of significant comment from users and businesses. It is important a balance exists between the different stakeholders and this strategy gives more visibility to the medium term car parking goals. The risks surrounding this will be managed as part of the services operational risk register and escalated to the Leadership Risk Register as and when necessary.

Comments checked by:
Louise Tustian, Acting Performance and Communications Manager, 01295 221786,
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8.0 Decision Information

Key Decision

Financial Threshold Met No

Community Impact Threshold Met No

Wards Affected

All

Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework

The car parking strategy seeks to make positive contributions to all three of Cherwell District Council's priorities as set out in its business plan: Clean, Green and Safe; Thriving Communities and Wellbeing; and, District of Opportunity and Growth.

Lead Councillor

Councillor Dan Sames, Lead Member for Clean and Green

Document Information

Appendix No	Title
1	Proposed Car Parking Strategy
2	Proposed Action Plan
3	Presentation to Banbury BID
4	Presentation to Bicester Vision
5	Car Parking enforcement
Background Papers	
None	
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