

Agenda Item 7a

Executive Member	Cllr David Mir		
Strategic Management Team Lead Officer	Paul Anderson		
Author	Lucy O’Connell, Interim Strategic Parking Manager		
Telephone	01306 879191		
Email	Lucy.oconnell@molevalley.gov.uk		
Date	27 March 2018		
Ward (s) affected	All	Key Decision	No
Subject	Mole Valley District Council Car Parking Strategy		
Recommendation from the Scrutiny Committee			
That the Executive approve the Strategy and Action Plan 2018-23 for implementation.			
Corporate Priority Outcomes			
Prosperity			
A vibrant local economy with thriving towns and villages			
Adopt a pro-business outlook across the District, addressing infrastructure needs, in particular parking provision which balances the needs of residents and local businesses			
The Executive has the authority to determine the Recommendations			

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The Car Parking Scrutiny Panel, whose work is within the remit of the Scrutiny Committee, was established by Council at its meeting on 19th September 2017. The terms of reference of the Panel were to:

1.1.1 To contribute to the development of a new Car Parking Strategy through reviewing:

- a. capacity, usage and demand for MVDC’s car parks;
- b. current issues (Dorking Parking Review; long term parking in Leatherhead; parking related to new M&S store in Ashtead);
- c. requirement for parking reviews in Ashtead and Leatherhead;
- d. car park Condition Survey and plans for improvements;
- e. current car parking best practice;
- f. RingGo usage;
- g. Electric vehicles and charging points.

- 1.2 The Panel was chaired by Councillor Chris Hunt, who worked with Councillors Bridget Kendrick, Paul Newman, Jatin Patel and Peter Stanyard.
- 1.3 The Panel undertook its initial work between November 2017 and February 2018.

2.0 Developing the Strategy

- 2.1 The strategy has been developed, utilising the footprint of the 2013-18 Car Parking Strategy it replaces. This ensures that the Council builds upon the significant work undertaken over the last five years.
- 2.2 The Panel recognised the need to take a targeted approach to the development of the Strategy, looking at specific areas where the Council could make a significant impact. It was agreed that the Strategy should focus on four key areas;
 - a. Provision of electric charge point infrastructure;
 - b. Reviewing the range of permits and pricing;
 - c. Reviewing car park charges and considering a differential approach;
 - d. Developing a programme for works for significant investments to renew and repair Council Car Parks.
- 2.3 The Strategy and supporting Action Plan are based around and support our three priority themes of Community Wellbeing, Environment and Prosperity.
- 2.4 The Scrutiny Committee received the report of the Car Parking Panel setting out the proposed Car Parking Strategy and Action Plan at its meeting on 13th March 2018. The Committee agreed to note the content of the Panel's report and make a recommendation to the Executive that the new Car Parking Strategy be approved.

3.0 Next Steps

- 3.1 At Council on 21st February 2018, it was agreed that the remit Car Parking Scrutiny be extended to support the implementation of the Action Plan.
- 3.2 New terms of reference will be developed for approval at Annual Council in May 2018.
- 3.3 It is recognised that it will take time to develop the car park investment programme and the panel agreed that identified works would continue and were possible be enhanced to incorporate the installation of electric charge point infrastructure, avoiding the need to dig out newly laid surfacing.
- 3.4 Major improvement works have already been approved for the Swan Centre Car Park, Leatherhead. Capital works will be undertaken in 2018-19 in Ashted Peace Memorial Hall and St Martins Walk, Dorking.

4.0 Financial Implications

A key focus of the strategy is to increase the overall yield that the Council achieves from its car parking assets. The Strategy also sets out that the pricing structure for car parking charges will be set in line with the Council's charging principles.

5.0 Legal Implications

The power for a local authority to provide off-street parking places and to regulate their use is contained mainly in the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. Section 122 of the Act contains a general duty on a local authority that when exercising any functions under the Act they do so (so far as practicable having regard to other matters specified in subsection (2)) to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic (including pedestrians) and the provision of suitable and adequate parking facilities on and off the highway. The matters specified in subsection (2) are: the desirability of securing and maintaining reasonable access to premises; the effect on the amenities of any locality affected; the importance of regulating and restricting the use of roads by heavy commercial vehicles, so as to preserve or improve the amenities of the areas through which the roads run; a strategy prepared under [section 80](#) of the [Environment Act 1995](#) (national air quality strategy); the importance of facilitating the passage of public service vehicles and of securing the safety and convenience of persons using or desiring to use such vehicles; and any other matters appearing to the local authority to be relevant.

6.0 Options

Option 1: The Executive approve the Car Parking Strategy 2018-23 for implementation.

Risks: There are no risks associated with this option.

Option 2: The Executive ask the Scrutiny Panel and Officers to undertake further work on the Strategy.

Risks: A delay in approving the Strategy would have a significant impact on the delivery timeframes for the proposed actions. Specifically, around proposals to develop differential charging schemes and reviewing permits in time for consideration as part of the 2019-20 budget setting process.

7.0 Corporate Implications

Monitoring Officer commentary

There are no legal implications arising as a direct result of this report.

S151 Officer commentary

The financial implications of the report relate to capital and revenue expenditure and are outlined in the Financial Implications 4.0.

Risk Implications

The Strategy has been developed to set a framework for the delivery of the car parking function for the next five years. In developing the strategy, consideration has been given to the risks that may affect the service and the opportunities that may arise. However, there are no direct risks associated with the strategy at this stage. Risks will continue to be identified and managed as actions within the action plan are taken forward.

Equalities Implications

There are no equalities implications arising from this report. As the implementation of the strategy progresses, further consideration will be given to any potential implication arising.

Employment Issues

There are no employment implications as a result of this report and plan.

Sustainability Issues

There are no sustainability implications as a result of this report and plan.

Background Papers

None

Mole Valley District Council Car Parking Strategy 2018 – 2023

INTRODUCTION

This strategy sets out the Council's approach to the provision and development of car parking in the District. The Strategy is supported by an Action Plan which sets out improvements that will be delivered in the short to medium term, and aspirations and principles for the longer term.

CURRENT PROVISION

The Council provides over 2,000 car parking spaces across 22 car parks in Ashted, Bookham, Dorking and Leatherhead. The provision, as at February 2018, is set out in appendix one, which presents the provision of short stay, long stay, 30 minutes free bays and disabled spaces.

The Council also currently enforces the on-street parking on behalf of Surrey County Council.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The strategic objectives, set out below, have been developed to ensure that the council's provision of car parking support the council's priorities as identified in the [Corporate Strategy](#):

- Listening to residents and our communities and use their views to inform the council's approach to car park provision
- Ensuring that parking provision balances the needs of residents and local businesses
- Protecting the environment and character of Mole Valley through the appropriate provision and design of car parks
- Delivering value for money to all local tax payers from the council's car park assets

Listening to Residents

Feedback received so far from residents and businesses shows that people want to see:

- Fair charging
- Car parks which support local businesses
- A fair and transparent approach to enforcement
- Parking which doesn't unduly impact on residential streets
- Information about car parking provision

This strategy sets a framework to address these points based around our Corporate Priorities. The principle of continuing to engage with and listen to our communities threads through all of these objectives.

The Action Plan, which is attached to the strategy, provides more detail about how these will be achieved.

Community Wellbeing

The primary purposes of our car parks are to provide access to town and village centres, to provide a good service for commuters and to enable access to the many retail, leisure and recreational facilities and sites in the District.

- C1 Ensure that car parking provision is in line with the requirements of our community.
- C2 Provide a range of options for people to pay their car parking fees.
- C3 Respond to the increased demand for electric vehicle charging points within car parks

Environment

By providing car parks that are safe and accessible we will support local businesses and residents.

- E1 Provide an enforcement function that is fair, consistent and in line with an open and transparent enforcement policy.
- E2 Protect current levels of car parking provision. Any town or village centre development that reduces capacity in a particular car park will be reprovided elsewhere in that town or village if demand dictates.

Prosperity

Our car parks are fundamental to people accessing our town and village centres to work, shop and enjoy other leisure activities. Through taking a proactive approach to managing the overall yield from our car parks, we will maintain a competitive pricing structure that support our towns and villages.

- P1 Improve marketing and promotion of our car parks.
- P2 Introduce differential charging to encourage maximum use of car parks in a way that supports the needs of businesses, workers, shoppers and commuters. Whilst looking to optimise yield from parking in line with the corporate charging principles.
- P3 Proportionate discounts for permits/season tickets.

REVIEW

The progress on the implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan will be reported on to Members through the Business and Budget monitoring process.

The Action Plan will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis to ensure that it continues to provide a framework for delivery which is fully in line with the principles of the strategy. This will be undertaken with the Executive Member for Environment and Parking. Significant amendments would be reported formally to the Executive.

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

This strategy has been produced in line with the assumptions of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy and the Council's corporate charging principles.

A key aim of this strategy is to set a framework that provides way that encourages more people to visit our towns and villages and thereby support the local economy whilst maximising income to the Council through increased asset utilisation.

Appendix:

Appendix 1: Car Park Provision

Appendix 1

Current Car Park Provision*

	Status	No. of spaces	Short Stay	Long Stay	Long & Short Stay	30 min bays	Disabled bays
Ashtead							
Ashtead Peace Memorial Hall	short & long stay	156	0	0	150	0	6
Grove Road	short & long stay	48	0	0	47	0	1
Ashtead Car Parks		204	0	0	197	0	7
Bookham							
Lower Road	short stay	68	50	0	0	14	4
Lower Shott	short & long stay	56	0	0	53	0	3
Bookham Car Parks		124	50	0	53	14	7
Dorking							
Dene Street	short & long stay	24	0	0	24	0	0
Wathen Road	short & long stay	104	0	0	96	5	3
High Street Southside	short & long stay	184	0	0	172	7	5
South Street	short & long stay	32	0	0	29	2	1
West Street	short stay	37	33	0	0	3	1
North Street	short stay	17	16	0	0	0	1
Church Street	long stay	31	0	31	0	0	0
Junction Road	long stay	35	0	34	0	0	1
Pippbrook (Saturday only)	short & long stay	143	0	0	140	0	3
Reigate Road	short & long stay	254	0	0	242	4	8
St Martins Walk	short & long stay	372	0	0	358	3	11
Dorking Car Parks		1233	49	65	1061	24	33
Leatherhead							
Bridge Street	short stay	23	22	0	0	0	1
Church Road	short & long stay	48	0	0	47	0	1
Church Street	short stay	54	51	0	0	0	3
Randalls Road	short & long stay	235	0	0	226	0	9
Station Road	short & long stay	99	0	0	96	0	3
Swan Centre	short stay	337	317	0	0	0	20
Upper Fairfield Road	short stay	34	0	0	32	0	2
Leatherhead Car Parks		833	390	0	401	0	39
Total Mole Valley provided spaces		2394	489	65	1750	38	86

* As at 1st July 2017

Car Parking Strategy Action Plan

COMMUNITY WELLBEING

Policy C1 - Ensure that car parking provision is in line with the requirements of our community.

	Initiative	Action	Timescale	Key Milestones	Lead Portfolio Holder(s)	Lead Officer(s)
1	Improve the quality of car parks	Develop a detailed planned maintenance programme (with forecasting for 5 years) for all of the Council's car parks	By March 2019	Works undertaken on Ashted Peace Memorial Hall, St Martins Walk and Swan Centre Full capital programme developed for implementation in 2019-2023	Executive Members for Environment and Assets	Strategy and Corporate Support Manager and Property Manager

Policy C2 - Provide a range of options for people to pay their car parking fees.

	Initiative	Action	Timescale	Key Milestones	Lead Portfolio Holder(s)	Lead Officer(s)
1	Extend options for paying for car parking	Upgrade car parking machines to offer customers the ability to pay by cash, card, apps etc	2018-2023 Dec 2018	Trial ongoing in Church Street, Leatherhead. New machines to be installed in Swan Centre as part of the refurbishment works. Linked to C1 – ideal to upgrade machines as works to car parks are undertaken.	Executive Members for Environment and Assets	Strategy and Corporate Support Manager and Property Manager

Policy C3 – Respond to the increased demand for electric vehicle charging points within car parks

	Initiative	Action	Timescale	Key Milestones	Lead Portfolio Holder(s)	Lead Officer(s)
1	Provision of electric charging points within council owned car parks	<p>Develop a scheme for the roll out of electric vehicle charge points.</p> <p>Work with providers to ensuring provision is suitable to meet anticipated need</p> <p>Develop suitable charging scheme for charge points</p> <p>Investigate funding opportunities to support the installation of charge points</p>	<p>March 2019</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Sept 2018</p> <p>ongoing</p>	<p>Linked to C1 – ideally roll out will be undertaken as works to car parks are undertaken</p> <p>Initial plan to be developed in 2018/19 outlining initial placement of bays.</p> <p>Reviewed annually to ensure fits with anticipated growing demand.</p> <p>To have a proposal agreed as part of 2019/20 fees and charges review.</p> <p>First points to be installed as part of the Swan Centre capital programme.</p>	Executive Members for Environment and Assets	Strategy and Corporate Support Manager and Property Manager

ENVIRONMENT

Policy E1 – Provide an enforcement function that is fair, consistent and in line with an open and transparent enforcement policy

	Initiative	Action	Timescale	Key Milestones	Lead Portfolio Holder(s)	Lead Officer(s)
1	Ensure enforcement resources are adequate for on & off street parking in the district.	Monitor usage and abuse, and act appropriately Ensure staff have appropriate tools and training to maximise effectiveness	Ongoing Ongoing		Executive Member for Environment	Parking Manager
2	Ensure enforcement is fair and consistent and that procedures are publicised	Review the parking enforcement policy utilising feedback from users, businesses & PCN and parking machine data.	March 2019	Publish the updated Enforcement Policy online	Executive Member for Environment	Parking Manager

Policy E2 – Protect current levels of car parking provision. Any town or village centre development that reduces capacity in a particular car park will be reprovided elsewhere in that town or village if demand dictates.

	Initiative	Action	Timescale	Key Milestones	Lead Portfolio Holder(s)	Lead Officer(s)
1	Provide adequate short-stay parking for town and village centres	Ensure the principle is included in the Local Plan that any new development replaces existing car parking spaces if demand dictates. Extend free 30 minute bay initiative to other towns and villages	March 2019 May 2018	Publication of New Local Plan Free 30 minutes bays introduced into Ashted and Leatherhead	Executive Members for Environment and Planning Executive Member for	Strategy and Corporate Support Manager and Planning Policy Manager Strategy and Corporate

	Initiative	Action	Timescale	Key Milestones	Lead Portfolio Holder(s)	Lead Officer(s)
					Environment	Support Manager and Parking Manager
2	Make more efficient use of existing car parking supply in the District	<p>Ongoing review of car park layouts to increase numbers of spaces</p> <p>Where demand demonstrates a need, provide increased motorbike and cycle parking without reducing car parking spaces.</p> <p>Review position of recycling sites</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Sept 2018</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Linked to C1 – as works to car parks are undertaken, consideration will be given as to best utilisation of space and accessibility requirements.</p> <p>Linked to C1 – as works to car parks are undertaken, consideration will be given as to best utilisation of space and accessibility requirements.</p> <p>Fees and Charges 2019/20</p> <p>As car park works are undertaken, placement of facilities to be considered</p>	<p>Executive Member for Environment</p>	<p>Strategy and Corporate Support Manager and Parking Manager</p> <p>Strategy and Corporate Support Manager and Parking Manager</p> <p>Strategy and Corporate Support Manager and Environmental Services Manager</p>

PROSPERITY

Policy P1 - Improve marketing and promotion of our car parks

	Initiative	Action	Timescale	Key Milestones	Lead Portfolio Holder(s)	Lead Officer(s)
1	Promotion of Car Parks	<p>Provide more information on parking on the Council's website</p> <p>Encourage users to report issues or faults online, on Twitter or through other methods of social media</p> <p>Promotion of new services as they are developed</p>	<p>July 2019</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Refresh car parking pages on the MVDC website</p> <p>Develop key messages to be shared via social media to raise awareness</p> <p>Launch of free 30 minute bays (May 2017)</p>	Executive Members for Environment and Community, Services and Housing	Strategy and Corporate Support Manager and Communications Manager
2	Developing the vitality of our towns and villages	<p>Work with Economic Development and businesses to ensure that car parks can fully support events and encourage both shoppers and businesses into the District</p> <p>Support the development and implementation of the Economic Prosperity Strategy</p> <p>Working with Investment and Regeneration Team to ensure that parking is represented as part of the ongoing Transform Leatherhead programme</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>		Executive Members for Environment and Economic Development and Transform Leatherhead	Strategy and Corporate Support Manager, Economic Development Manager and Investment and Regeneration Manager

Policy P2 - Introduce differential charging to encourage maximum use of car parks in a way that supports the needs of businesses, workers, shoppers and commuters. Whilst looking to optimise yield from parking in line with the corporate charging principles

	Initiative	Action	Timescale	Key Milestones	Lead Portfolio Holder(s)	Lead Officer(s)
1	A fair approach to car parking fees to encourage maximum use of each car park throughout the day	To review the Council's charging policy including the introduction of differential approach.	Sept 2018	Proposal developed for consideration as part of the 2019/2020 budget preparation	Executive Member for Environment	Strategy and Corporate Support Manager
2	A consistent approach to the provision of permits and the associated charges	To review the current permits available, both need and pricing. To ensure permits are appropriately publicised and issued in line with the agreed approach	Sept 2018 March 2019	Proposal considered as part of the 2019/2020 budget setting process Information on permits to be updated on website	Executive Member for Environment	Strategy and Corporate Support Manager Strategy and Corporate Support Manager and Parking Manager

Policy P3 - Proportionate discounts for permits/season tickets

	Initiative	Action	Timescale	Key Milestones	Lead Portfolio Holder(s)	Lead Officer(s)
1	To ensure efficient use of season tickets (annual permits)	<p>Review season ticket charges</p> <p>Consider setting limitations on number of permits available as demand for parking grows</p>	<p>Sept 2018</p> <p>Sept 2018</p>	<p>Linked to P2.2</p> <p>Linked to P2.2</p>	Executive Member for Environment	Strategy and Corporate Support Manager

