Communities & Housing Scrutiny Committee Meeting: 21 September 2020

PARKING STRATEGY UPDATE

Report of the Executive Director of Place

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Council placed a moratorium on the introduction of any new resident parking schemes in 2019 to enable a full review of the existing approach to be taken. This review was required as elements of the existing policy were not working effectively and were not meeting the needs of residents. There were also concerns relating to the impact of schemes on local services and the town and district centres. In order to ensure a coordinated approach, it was agreed that all policies and procedures relating to residents parking, including the Town Centre, would be reviewed.

1.2 The Council's approach to parking sits at the intersection of a number of competing agendas including responding to the climate emergency, promoting health, wellbeing and active travel, and promoting economic growth. It has become evident through the review process that any parking policies need to navigate between these sometimes competing priorities whilst also accounting for the expectations of residents, businesses and visitors to Stockport, and managing the impacts of population growth and demographic change.

1.3 As part of the ongoing work to develop the Local Plan, there is a need to consider the Council's future approach to parking in planning policy terms, but also a number of current operational issues relating to residents parking and parking in the town centre which resulted in the ongoing moratorium. It is vital that there is consistency between planning and operational policies, and an overall coordinated approach which supports the Council's wider strategic objectives

1.4 The impacts of Covid-19 on how we travel and subsequent parking requirements are not yet known but there is an opportunity to utilise the Covid-19 recovery principles of 'Build Back Better' to frame an updated approach to parking.

1.5 In light of the above, the purpose of this paper is:

- To seek comments on the proposed revised principles to guide future parking policy decisions
- To seek feedback on the proposed changes to resident parking policy and town centre parking policy to reflect the revised principles.

Further detail on the rationale and proposed changes to resident parking policy can be found in Appendix 1

Further detail on the rationale and proposed changes to town centre residential parking policy can be found in Appendix 2

Following the review of the feedback received, an updated Residents Parking Policy and Town Centre Residential Parking Policy will be submitted to the Cabinet

AGENDA ITEM

Member for Sustainable Stockport for approval and adoption. Subject to the successful approval of these policies, it is intended that the existing moratorium be lifted.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Parking covers a far wider scope than just conventional car parking in Council-owned car parks. It also relates to broader areas including residential parking, parking in the town centre, parking in district and local centres, on and off street parking, disabled parking, parking and charging for electric vehicles, car club parking, cycle parking, lorry and coach parking.

2.2 Delivery of a coordinated approach to parking in its broadest sense is complex and requires careful management against the Council's overarching strategic priorities. There are a number of key challenges which have to be managed, including:

- The need to balance demand for parking with encouraging active travel and public transport use
- The need to provide adequate space for car parking in areas where space is often at a premium whilst maximising the space available for other uses
- The need to balance between generating income from parking charges and using charging to encourage behaviour change, and facilitating business activity and economic growth
- The need to provide parking in a flexible way to respond to different users (e.g. visitors and commuters) whilst managing the impact of parking and parking overspill on local communities
- The need to provide parking in a way which enables provision to respond to longer term demographic trends (e.g. reduced car ownership amongst younger generations) and changes in the way we travel (e.g. growth of autonomous vehicles).

2.3 In order to manage these challenges, a series of proposed principles to guide policy development in relation to parking have been identified. These have been set out against the covid-19 recovery principles of 'Build Back Better'.

Build Back Better Theme	**Overarching Principles to guide policymaking**
Greener	• Support the provision of alternative transport to reduce need for private car ownership, especially in town and district centres. • Support the provision of cycle storage for all types of journeys

	and users. • Support the provision of fuelling opportunities for no and low emission vehicles • Ensure fees and charging are used to support behavioural change ambitions
Fairer	• Ensure that parking is shared and placed in consolidated locations to free up space for other uses where possible • Ensure disabled parking is provided in line with need. • Ensure costs are appropriate to cover the administration costs of any policies
Faster	• Encourage the utilisation of electronic permits, tickets, and payments to make the service more efficient. • Ensure that the ability to enforce controls on anti-social parking is improved and maintained. • Reinvigorate behavioural change messaging about parking to encourage people to use alternative modes of transport where possible and where appropriate.

3. NEXT STEPS

3.1 These principles have been identified to try and help guide future parking policy decisions by setting out the core features which will ensure that parking policies align with wider Council objectives, particularly in relation to the Climate Action Now strategy.

3.2 In line with these principles, and following a review of the existing policies as set out in the current moratorium, a series of proposed amendments to parking policies in line with these principles have been set out in Appendices 1 and 2.

3.3 Subject to the feedback received from Scrutiny, the draft policies will be revised and then submitted to the Cabinet Member for Sustainable Stockport for approval and adoption.

3.4 Officers will then review any applications for schemes under the new policies. In order to ensure that applications are reviewed effectively and in a timely manner within available resources, it is likely that area committees will be asked to prioritise applications which are submitted to officers for review.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- Review and comment on the revised principles to guide future parking policy decisions
- Review and comment on the proposed changes to residents parking policy to reflect the revised principles
- Review and comment on the proposed changes to town centre parking policy to reflect the revised principles

BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are none

Anyone wishing to inspect the above background papers or requiring further information should contact Mark Glynn, Director of Place Management on telephone number 0161 474 3700 or alternatively email mark.glynn@stockport.gov.uk