

REPORT TO EXETER CITY COUNCIL ECONOMY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: THURSDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2014

Report of: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR PUBLIC REALM

Title: PARKING PLACES ENFORCEMENT

Is this a Key Decision?

No

One that affects finances over £1m or significantly affects two or more wards. If this is a key decision then the item must be on the appropriate forward plan of key decisions.

Is this an Executive or Council Function?

Executive

1 What is the report about?

- 1.1 To update Members on the progress to bring all off-street parking enforcement in-house.

2 Recommendations:

- 2.1 To undertake in-house, all off-street parking enforcement that protects Council income streams. These sites are Bampfylde Street, Bartholomew Terrace, Belmont Road, Bystock Terrace, Cathedral & Quay, Gordons Place, Harlequins, Haven Road, Holman Way, Howell Road, King William Street, Magdalen Road, Magdalen Street, Matthews Hall, Okehampton Street, Parr Street, Princesshay 2, Princesshay 3, Richmond Road, Smythen Street and Tappers Close. They are listed as type (a) in the table at 8.2 below.
- 2.2 To undertake in-house, any off-street parking enforcement that can be effective on a purely reactive basis. These sites are Guildhall, Mary Arches Street, John Lewis, Matford Park & Ride, Duryard, Bromhams Farm, Cowick Barton Fields, Bettysmead, Hamlin Lane, King George V, Station Road (Pinhoe), Albert Street, Clifton Street, East John Walk, Leighton Terrace, Lower Albert Street, Oxford Road, Parr Street, Sandford Walk and St Matthews Close. They are listed as types (b), (c) and (d) in the table below.
- 2.3 To continue to use a suitably accredited private parking enforcement provider for scenarios where patrols need to be regular and proactive to be effective yet do not serve the purpose of protecting Council income. These sites are Clifton Hill Sports Centre, Riverside Leisure Centre, Phoenix Art Centre, Swans Nest, Turf, Canal Basin and Exeter Quayside. They are listed as types (f), (h), and (i) in the table below.
- 2.4 The 7 parking sites added to the Parking Places Order in January 2014 on a trial basis should now be included permanently. These sites are Duryard, Bromhams Farm, Cowick Barton Fields, Bettysmead, Hamlin Lane, King George V and Station Road (Pinhoe).

3 Reasons for the recommendation:

- 3.1 To enable Council enforcement resources to be prioritised to the areas of statutory responsibility and income protection.
- 3.2 To allow cost effective enforcement of areas that require regular patrols but would be low priority for the Council's in-house enforcers.

4 What are the resource implications including non financial resources.

- 4.1 None. Done within existing resources.
- 4.2 The impact of committing the current in-house team to enforce on a regular basis over

additional parking areas could be a reduction in payment compliance at pay & display car parks.

5 Section 151 Officer comments:

5.1 There are no additional financial implications contained in this report.

6 What are the legal aspects?

6.1 Any new parking areas to be enforced by our in-house team would need to be added to the Council's Parking Places Order and advertised accordingly.

7 Monitoring Officer's comments:

7.1 The Monitoring Officer has not had sight of this report to comment.

8 Report details:

8.1 Exeter City Council provides a large number of off-street parking areas and these are currently enforced in a number of different ways dependent upon the nature and function of the parking area.

8.2

Type	Site	Function	Enforced By	Reason for Enforcement
(a)	Bampfylde Street, Bartholomew Terrace, Belmont Road, Bystock Terrace, Cathedral & Quay, Gordons Place, Harlequins, Haven Road, Holman Way, Howell Road, King William Street, Magdalen Road, Magdalen Street, Matthews Hall, Okehampton Street, Parr Street, Princesshay 2, Princesshay 3, Richmond Road, Smythen Street, Tappers Close	Pay & Display	Exeter City Council CEOs	Regular enforcement patrols to protect car park income during charging hours (08:00 – 18:00hrs). Will become core part of Enforcement Team's work.
(b)	Guildhall, Mary Arches Street, John Lewis	Pay on Foot	Exeter City Council CEOs	Enforcement not required to protect income as drivers must pay to exit. PCNs issued on rare occasions by staff working from these sites for issues of obstruction or abusing disabled bay.
(c)	Matford Park & Ride, Duryard, Bromhams Farm, Cowick Barton Fields, Bettysmead, Hamlin Lane,	Free	Exeter City Council CEOs	Enforcement Team can issue PCNs to classes of vehicles not

	King George V, Station Road (Pinhoe)			permitted (caravans, trailers etc) or any vehicle staying more than 24 hours. Undertaken on a reactive rather than proactive basis.
(d)	Albert Street, Clifton Street, East John Walk, Leighton Terrace, Lower Albert Street, Oxford Road, Parr Street, Sandford Walk, St Matthews Close	Residents Car Parks available to those with a DCC permit	Exeter City Council CEOs	Enforcement Team can issue PCNs to vehicles not displaying a DCC residents permit. ECC keep any PCN income and DCC keep permit income.
(e)	Shilhay, James Court, Prospect Place, Allhallows Court, Sidwell Street Flats, Prescott Road, Flowerpot Lane, Watergate	Permit/Resident Only Sites	Premier Park	Premier Park provide regular patrols to enforce against non-permit holders parking in Housing tenants bays. 24/7 restriction.
(f)	Clifton Hill Sports Centre, Riverside Leisure Centre, Phoenix Art Centre	Permit/Customer Only Parking	Premier Park	Premier Park provide regular patrols to enforce against non-users parking in customer only bays.
(g)	Flowerpot, Station Road (Exwick)	Pay & Display	Premier Park	These sites were previously free car parks for access to recreational land but were abused by commuter parking. Now leased to Premier Park until 2017.
(h)	Swans Nest	Free	Premier Park	Premier Park patrol this site as it is close to Turf and enforce obstructive parking.
(i)	Turf, Canal Basin, Exeter Quayside	Permit Parking	Premier Park	Premier Park provide regular patrols to enforce against non-permit holders parking in

				these locations to detriment of SSSI (Turf) and location ambience (Quayside and Basin.)
(j)	Wonford Sports Centre, Exeter Arena, Northbrook Golf Course	Free	None	No current enforcement arrangements in place.

- 8.3 Members have previously requested that all Council off-street parking areas be included in our own Parking Places Order and Council Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) patrol these sites and issue Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) where appropriate.
- 8.4 Concerns have been raised in the past about negative publicity surrounding the use of clamping as an enforcement measure and the 'robust' approach adopted by a private parking enforcement company on non-Council parking sites in Exeter.
- 8.5 Clamping as a parking enforcement tool was made illegal in October 2012. In addition the British Parking Association has set up an Approved Operator Scheme and an Independent Appeal Service to better regulate private parking enforcers.
- 8.6 Between May 2008 and April 2014 Exeter City Council undertook on-street parking enforcement on behalf of Devon County Council. A benefit for Exeter City Council was the ability to utilise the 14 DCC funded CEOs to enforce at over 30 pay & display sites and residents only sites during the course of their street patrols (see (a) and (d) in table at 8.2 above).
- 8.7 The remaining 8 ECC funded CEOs have been required to staff the 3 Pay on Foot car parks within the city centre (see (b) in table) so the ex-Community Patrol team of 5 staff have been formed into an Enforcement Team to cover a wide range of issues.
- 8.8 Their priorities are ensuring the Council fulfils its statutory responsibility for dealing with stray dogs, parking enforcement in pay & display car parks to help protect £6M per annum income stream and removal of rough sleepers from Council land to help save the costs associated with a private company undertaking this (over £70K in 12013/14).
- 8.9 It has been clarified that Members did not intend to include Housing sites (see (e) in table) within the scope of this review so existing arrangements will remain in place. These sites are Shilhay, James Court, Prospect Place, Allhallows Court, Sidwell Street Flats, Prescott Road, Flowerpot Lane and Watergate.
- 8.10 The 7 parking sites added to the Parking Places Order in January 2014 on a trial basis (see (c) in table, except Matford P&R) should now be included permanently.
- 8.11 A private parking enforcement option offers a cost effective solution for the sites where no charge is made but regular patrols are necessary throughout the day and evening, often to remote areas (see (f), (h) and (j) in table).
- 8.12 The private arrangements currently in place for Station Road (Exwick) and Flowerpot are working effectively but should be reviewed at the end of the lease periods in May and March 2017 respectively.

8.13 Parkwood Leisure should remain free to implement enforcement measures they deem appropriate at leisure sites (see (j) in table above). These sites are Wonford Sports Centre, Exeter Arena and Northbrook Golf Course.

8.14 In summary the recommendation is:-

- a) The Council's in-house team undertakes parking enforcement at Bampfylde Street, Bartholomew Terrace, Belmont Road, Bystock Terrace, Cathedral & Quay, Gordons Place, Harlequins, Haven Road, Holman Way, Howell Road, King William Street, Magdalen Road, Magdalen Street, Matthews Hall, Okehampton Street, Parr Street, Princesshay 2, Princesshay 3, Richmond Road, Smythen Street, Tappers Close, Guildhall, Mary Arches Street, John Lewis, Matford Park & Ride, Duryard, Bromhams Farm, Cowick Barton Fields, Bettysmead, Hamlin Lane, King George V, Station Road (Pinhoe), Albert Street, Clifton Street, East John Walk, Leighton Terrace, Lower Albert Street, Oxford Road, Parr Street, Sandford Walk and St Matthews Close.
- b) A suitable private contractor undertakes parking enforcement at Clifton Hill Sports Centre, Riverside Leisure Centre, Phoenix Art Centre, Swans Nest, Turf, Canal Basin and Exeter Quayside.
- c) Existing private contractor arrangements at Flowerpot and Station Road (Exwick) be reviewed at the end of the lease period in 2017.

9 How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan?

- Improve the environment and my neighbourhood – by ensuring adequate parking enforcement to deter problem parking.
- Help me run a successful business in Exeter – by ensuring appropriate turnover of parking bays through sensible and sensitive parking enforcement patrols focused on core car parks (see (a) in table above).

10 What risks are there and how can they be reduced?

10.1 These recommendations offer the lowest risk option, allowing the in-house team to focus on the business critical sites and those with minimal demand for regular patrols. The areas requiring regular patrols with little financial return should continue to be enforced by a cost effective private contractor.

11 What is the impact of the decision on equality and diversity; health and wellbeing; safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults, community safety and the environment?

11.1 None.

12 Are there any other options?

12.1 To increase the staffing resource of the internal team.

Assistant Director Public Realm

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)

Background papers used in compiling this report:-

None

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