

REPORT TO	DATE OF MEETING
Cabinet	16 June 2016

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SUBJECT	PORTFOLIO	AUTHOR	ITEM
Car Parking Schemes and Improvements	Neighbourhoods and Streetscene	Mark Gaffney	5

SUMMARY AND LINK TO CORPORATE PRIORITIES

This report details a number of proposed improvements to car parking across the borough including improvements to the Council's own car parks and enforcement for both on and off street parking. The report details estimated income projections and issues to consider should car parking charges be introduced at Worden Park and Wither Grove Park.

The introduction of car parking charges is becoming more common for users of major parks. Worden Park and Wither Grove Park are popular facilities attracting large numbers of visitors from outside the borough. The introduction of car parking charges will generate income, help the Council achieve a balanced budget in future years and support the provision of park facilities and the significant investment that the Council has already and continues to make in improving its facilities.

Car parking management supports all of the Council's corporate priorities but especially Clean, Green and Safe.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet agrees:

1. The pilot enforcement project with LCC be introduced at the earliest opportunity.
2. The commencement of a consultation process for the proposals as outlined in the report.

DETAILS AND REASONING

Parking Enforcement

The Council provides off street enforcement on Council car parks and LCC provides on street enforcement on the highway areas across the borough. The Council "buys in" to the LCC contract for its enforcement service which is operated as a separate service for car parks whilst the LCC service operates just for on street parking. Meetings have taken place with LCC to discuss how the two organisations can work together collaboratively to make the service more efficient and effective.

Discussions have been positive and the agreed position is that the two councils will combine existing fixed resources for both on and off street enforcement and operate a pilot enforcement scheme. Whilst this will still reflect the enforcement priorities and objectives of both councils, it will enable both on and off street enforcement to be carried out as a joint operation. Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) income will be allocated as at present. LCC will retain on street and the Council off

street income. Joint enforcement schedules are currently being prepared to reflect the above arrangements which should be ready for implementation during the summer.

It is considered that the above arrangements will provide a more joined up and effective service and help to improve public perception with one combined service providing enforcement.

The Council does receive complaints about not enough on street parking enforcement being provided in certain parts of the borough. One option to help resolve this is for the Council to meet the cost of additional enforcement in these areas. It is proposed that this is considered as part of the proposed car parking consultation as this additional enforcement could be funded through the income generated should car parking charges be introduced at Worden and Withy Grove Parks.

Car Park Charges at Worden Park and Withy Grove Park

It is proposed that consideration is given to the introduction of car parking charges at Worden Park and Withy Grove Park. Car parking charges are now becoming more common for users of main parks. Worden Park is a popular facility attracting visitors from the wider North West region. The playground at Withy Grove Park is also a popular facility attracting visitors from a wide area of Lancashire especially from the M65 corridor. The proposed introduction of car parking charges will generate income, help the Council achieve a future balanced budget and support the significant investment planned for these facilities.

In response to a request from Runshaw College a permit scheme has been introduced to enable students to park on Worden Park all day. The formalisation of parking arrangements by the introduction of a chargeable permit scheme enables students to park on the overflow car park during term time. The number of permits issued is limited to ensure there is no adverse impact on park users. The permit scheme does not have an adverse impact during busy periods for the park such as evenings, weekends, school and bank holidays. The college is encouraging its students to use Worden Park for car parking as it considers that these are safe facilities close to the college site. The planned extension to the overflow car park will enable more permits to be offered to Runshaw students.

Should car park charges be introduced then further consideration will have to be given to the Runshaw permit scheme which could still continue alongside the option of a daily charge through a ticket.

Consideration will need to be given to leisure centre customers who use the car park at Withy Grove. A reimbursement scheme could be introduced in liaison with Serco so that a charging scheme does not have an adverse effect on Serco's business.

The introduction of car parking charges will enable more efficient and effective enforcement for Worden Park. Enforcement is currently very difficult due to the requirement to monitor and check the time a vehicle has been parked within the three hour period. The issuing of a P&D ticket will significantly simplify and shorten the enforcement process with enforcement officers just needing to check for the display of a valid ticket.

Estimated Car Parking Income

The table below provides a breakdown of the expected additional income generated from both Worden Park and Withy Grove Park.

It is proposed to charge £1 per day which would be in place between 10:00 and 16:00 hours. This would enable residents who are regular park users to use the parks at the beginning and the end of the day without paying a parking fee.

The income will help the Council provide and maintain park facilities and support the significant investment that has already and continues to take place to improve the facilities. The income could also be used to support and improve car parks and parking enforcement.

Table A

	2016/17 £ (part year)	2017/18 £ (full year)
Income Car Parking Charges and Permit Scheme	(22,000)	(89,000)
One off costs Set up Costs and Improvement Costs	43,000	-
Recurring Operating Costs Enforcement, Cash Collection, Permit Scheme	2,000	9,000
Net Cost (Income) Generation	23,000	(80,000)

Displacement to Surrounding Streets

Should car parking charges be introduced potential displacement into the surrounding streets has to be considered for both Worden Park and Withy Grove Park.

Worden Lane and the Worden Estate are already subject to restrictions but only on week days during term time. During busy periods at the weekend, school and bank holidays displacement could happen, giving the potential for nuisance and resident complaints.

Initial discussions have been carried out with LCC as the highway authority who are supportive of the Council to carry out an initial consultation to gauge public feedback on the proposals.

Council Car Parks

The Council has over 50 car parks which include town centre pay and display, public and other council buildings, residential and parks and open spaces. The schedule attached details the car parks, existing management arrangements and restrictions, proposed management arrangements and restrictions and proposed improvement works. The costs associated with the proposed improvement works as set out in the schedule can be met from within existing budget provision, subject to the results of the consultation exercise. An improvement which has already been introduced is cashless payments via smart phones which gives greater choice to customers in how to pay.

The Way Forward

It is proposed that the pilot parking enforcement scheme with LCC is implemented at the earliest opportunity during the summer.

It is also proposed that a consultation process is commenced to include proposals for car parking charges at Worden Park and Withy Grove Park, arrangements for dealing with any vehicle displacement from Worden Park and Withy Grove Park, arrangements for Leisure Centre customers at Withy Grove, any additional on-street enforcement requirements, improvements and management arrangements for other council car parks.

It is proposed that the consultation process will include the council website, engagement with local residents, partners and members, clip board surveys and My Neighbourhood Forums. The period of consultation is envisaged to be 8 weeks from the 27th June to the 21 August, 2016.

Following the conclusion of the consultation process a further report with detailed proposals will be presented to Cabinet.

The proposed implementation date is January 2017. However, this would need to be considered after taking in to account responses and outcomes from the consultation process.

WIDER IMPLICATIONS

In the preparation of this report, consideration has been given to the impact of its proposals in all the areas listed below, and the table shows any implications in respect of each of these.

FINANCIAL	<p>The costs of the improvement works detailed in the attached schedule of car parks is £2,000 which can be met from within the existing revenue budget for 2016/17. However, should these works change as a result of the consultation then these costs will need to be re-evaluated.</p> <p>As detailed in Table 1, the introduction of car park charges at Worden Park and Withy Grove Park is estimated to cost £23,000 (net) in 2016/17 part year due to the one off set up costs. The income estimated for 2017/18 full year is £80,000 (net).</p> <p>This income could be used to offset any additional costs from the project such as additional on-street enforcement, LCC costs for any traffic regulation orders which may be required and further improvements. Following the consultation process these potential additional costs will be re-evaluated.</p>
LEGAL	<p>Any changes to the Council's management arrangements for its car parks will need to be formally advertised in the updated Off Street Parking Places Order.</p>
RISK	<p>This report requests approval to commence a consultation process for the Councils car parking arrangements. This is necessary to ensure views are sought and obtained from a wide range of stakeholders.</p>
THE IMPACT ON EQUALITY	<p>Any equality impacts will be considered through the consultation process. The Equality Impact Assessment covering the parking service is subject to regular review.</p>

OTHER (see below)

<i>Asset Management</i>	<i>Corporate Plans and Policies</i>	<i>Crime and Disorder</i>	<i>Efficiency Savings/Value for Money</i>
<i>Equality, Diversity and Community Cohesion</i>	<i>Freedom of Information/ Data Protection</i>	<i>Health and Safety</i>	<i>Health Inequalities</i>
<i>Human Rights Act 1998</i>	<i>Implementing Electronic Government</i>	<i>Staffing, Training and Development</i>	<i>Sustainability</i>

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Off Street Parking Places Order