

**TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

**30 November 2009**

**Report of the Director of Planning, Transport and Leisure**

**Part 1- Public**

**Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non-Key Decision (Decision may be taken by the Cabinet Member)**

**1 PARKING ACTION PLAN – PROGRESS REPORT**

**Summary**

**On the parking operational side of the business, the Parking Team has produced its first Annual Report. Work on the Parking Action Plan has continued. The current focus is on parking conditions in East Malling and creating a Local Parking Plan for the village. Work has also been progressing on the latest stage of the phased programme at various locations.**

**1.1 The Annual Report**

- 1.1.1 The Chief Adjudicator at the National Parking Adjudication Service expressed the view that authorities carrying out parking enforcement should publish annual reports of their service activity. This view has been reinforced in the recently introduced Traffic Management Act, which came into effect at the start of April 2008.
- 1.1.2 The obligation in the legislation to produce an annual report rests with the 'traffic authority', defined in the Act as the County Council. Kent County Council will prepare its Kent-wide document in due course using information supplied by each of the Districts. In the meantime, most of the districts have taken the view that there is value in preparing local annual reports. These will provide a more precise picture for each local community of the detailed work of its own parking team and reflect the local variation in the character of the enforcement service.
- 1.1.3 Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council shares this view and has prepared the document contained in **Annex 1**. The Planning and Transportation Advisory Board (PTAB) considered this report at its recent meeting and endorsed it for publication. This Board may wish to lend weight to the document by endorsing it in parallel with the PTAB.
- 1.1.4 In producing an Annual Report, the aim is to provide sufficient information for residents and businesses to demonstrate that the Borough Council is carrying out

an on and off street park service that is fair, open and accountable and which also retains the local character of the service.

## **1.2 Parking Action Plan - Update**

- 1.2.1 The Parking Team has continued to implement the Parking Action Plan and the main current project is producing a **Local Parking Plan for East Malling**. It recently circulated questionnaires to all the properties in the village to survey local parking needs and expectations and it is now analysing the responses to assess practical options, where possible, to resolve the parking problems. This will be followed by further consultation to find out what the local community thinks of the proposals before I report back to this Board and to the PTAB in the next cycle of meetings.
- 1.2.2 The Team is also continuing with the latest stage of the phased programme. This is a programme of interventions at specific locations where there is no need for an area-wide treatment. There are some 25 locations in this phase (see **Annex 2**) and the Team is assessing the responses it has received from a first round of informal consultations on draft proposals.
- 1.2.3 The proposals at many of the sites have local support and could proceed readily to the next formal stage of order making to introduce the required waiting restrictions. However, others locations have drawn replies that demonstrate a degree of firmly held and opposed views about the suggested solutions. The work at these locations is therefore likely to require a number of iterations to refine the proposals and that work will need to be carried out through the next cycle. I recommend that the whole package of measures be implemented together, including those locations where there is local support. I will report further on this phase of the Parking Action Plan to the next meeting of the Board.
- 1.2.4 Running alongside the phased programme, the team has also been steering the parking work associated with the redevelopment of West Kent College in Tonbridge. At its last meeting, the Board endorsed a package of waiting restrictions in roads near the College aimed at eliminating the more serious of the hazardous parking that is currently causing concerns locally. The statutory notice stage to introduce the restrictions is expected to take place soon and, if there are no objections, the lines can be installed afterwards. If there are objections, I will report them to the next meeting for careful consideration and a decision on how the Board wishes to respond.

## **1.3 Legal Implications**

- 1.3.1 The on-street parking service is undertaken by the Borough Council, on behalf of the County Council, under the terms of a formal legal Agreement. There is no legal obligation on the Borough Council to produce an Annual Report of the parking enforcement service but it wishes to do so to inform the local community about the work and performance of the service.

## **1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations**

1.4.1 Funding to implement the Parking Action Plan is provided within existing approved Borough Council budgets.

## **1.5 Risk Assessment**

1.5.1 Not applicable

## **1.6 Policy Considerations**

1.6.1 Community – publishing the Annual Report is intended to share with the local community a detailed picture of the work of the parking enforcement service

## **1.7 Recommendations**

1.7.1 That the Annual Report **BE ENDORSED**.

The Director of Planning Transport and Leisure confirms that the proposals contained in the recommendation(s), if approved, will fall within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

Background papers:

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Nil

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