

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLANNING and TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD

17 November 2010

Report of the Director of Planning, Transport and Leisure

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 PARKING MANAGEMENT

Summary

The Parking Report for 2009/10 has been produced and it shows a gradual consolidation and settling down of the service following the major changes introduced by the Traffic Management Act in 2008.

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 In reports over the years, 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 has been overtaken in recent years by the Traffic Management Act that requires the publication of an annual report.

1.1.2 The obligation in the legislation to produce an annual report rests with the 'traffic authority' in the terms of the Act. By definition, this is Kent County Council. In practice, most Kent districts prepare local annual reports, reflecting the way in which the service is provided in Kent. This also provides a sharper and more precise picture for each local community of the detailed work of its own parking team and reflects the local variation in the character of the enforcement service. **Annex 1** contains our Borough focused report for 2009/10; the second such report that has been produced.

1.2 The Annual Report

1.2.1 In producing an Annual Report, the aim is to provide sufficient information for our residents and businesses to demonstrate that we are carrying out an on and off street park service that is fair, open and accountable. The aim is also to show that our practices are consistent with neighbouring parking services. However, it is important to retain the local character and culture of the service which shows in the way we enforce and how we deal with formal and informal challenges and representations from people who wish to take issue on receiving a Penalty Charge Notices.

1.3 Parking Action Plan - Update

- 1.3.1 The parking service is a twin sided operation part of which is active enforcement and part is devising and bringing forward parking management initiatives in consultation with local communities; for example, producing local parking plans. The current major focus of parking management is the East Malling Local Parking Plan where the public consultation exercise has just finished and the final assessments will shortly be considered by the Steering Group before going on to the JTB for endorsement. In parallel with this work, we are also at the implementation stage of phase 6 of our general programme of parking interventions at various locations borough-wide.
- 1.3.2 Once the East Malling Local Parking Plan has been implemented, we will tackle the next commitments in the Parking Action Plan. These are parking pressures in Aylesford and the many locations in Phase 7 of the general programme. This will then be followed by a major cycle of review of the Local Parking Plans that we have already introduced over the past six years to ensure they remain effective and relevant in balancing and managing local parking need.

1.4 Policy Considerations

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

Background papers:

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Nil

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