

Joint Transportation Board

02 December 2024

Part 1 - Public

Matters for Information



Cabinet Member Cllr Coffin, Cabinet Member for Transformation & Infrastructure

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Parking Update

1 Summary and Purpose of Report

1.1 This report covers the progress of the current Phase (Phase 15), the content of the next Phase (Phase 16) of the Action Plan and an update on the Borough's parking reviews.

2 Corporate Strategy Priority Area

- 2.1 Efficient services for all our residents, maintaining an effective council.
- 2.2 Parking provision and management is a key part of maintain the free flow of traffic on the roads and needs to be balanced to provide different users amenity parking.

3 Recommendations

3.1 To note the current progress and approach to the Parking Team's work programme.

4 Introduction and Background to the Development of the Parking Action Plan

- 4.1 The Borough Council has for many years divided requests for changes to parking restrictions into separate Phases of the "Parking Action Plan", or for wider areas as discrete "Parking Reviews".
- 4.2 The current procedure for requesting and progressing changes to parking restrictions is as follows:-

- Request received and added to waiting list.

- Sites collated into manageable phases
- Approval for the next phase reported to Joint Transportation Board with recommendation to move to informal consultation.
- Report to Joint Transportation Board on the outcome of informal consultation with recommendation to alter/adjust proposals if appropriate and to move to formal consultation.
- Report to Joint Transportation Board following formal consultation with recommendations to approve/abandon proposals.
- Install approved schemes.
- Review of impact of proposals after 12 months if required.

5 Phase 15

- 5.1 The sites within Phase 15 (Annex 1) were subject to a previous report to the Joint Transportation Board and are being assessed and will be progressed to an initial design.
- 5.2 Requests through the Parking Action Plan often come from direct members of the public, and as such, not all issues requested are purely parking related. Some may relate to other elements of highway design that are outside the gift of the Borough Council, and some may be issues between residents.
- 5.3 Locations where a suitable design is thought to be achievable will move forward to consultation, and those locations where changes to parking arrangements are unlikely to resolve the issues will be discussed with the local Members for their views.
- 5.4 We will then carry out informal consultation on the proposals where parking controls would be beneficial that form Phase 15 with frontagers of the areas affected in January 2025.
- 5.5 We will be reporting this consultation to the 3 March 2025 meeting of this Board for consideration, before progressing to the formal consultation.

6 The Holding List and Phase 16

- 6.1 The Holding List of the Parking Action Plan shown in Annex 2 will be developed once Phase 15 progresses to its formal consultation stage. The top 30 locations of the Holding List will then provisionally form Phase 16.
- 6.2 Members will note that Phase 16 is likely to consist of 30 locations, which is considered to be the maximum number of schemes that can be addressed within the available staff resources with the Parking team.

7 Parking Reviews

- 7.1 In addition to the Phased Parking Action Plans, the Borough Council has an agreed programme of Parking Reviews, where more complex issues or packages of measures can be addressed.
- 7.2 There are currently three Parking Reviews being progressed, Kings Hill, Hadlow and Hildenborough, with a future review programmed for Snodland.
- 7.3 Due to the complexity and work that the Parking Team are delivering in terms of the recent review and delivery of parking charges it has not been possible to progress much of the parking programme of work.
- 7.4 Kings Hill Parking Review – Phase A of this scheme has now been completed with the potential phases to be re-evaluated with local Members.
- 7.5 Hadlow and Hildenborough Parking Reviews – Informal consultation has been completed and the schemes have been reviewed. Formal consultation will take place early next year with the outcome being reported to this Board.

8 Risk Assessment

- 8.1 The comprehensive assessment and consultation process applied to Parking Action Plans provides the assurance that the Borough Council has the will and ability to adapt proposals brought forward, in the light of comment and circumstances, and to ensure that it achieves a best balance of local parking needs. A regular review of the schemes is crucial to ensure that the Council correctly and effectively manages on-street parking in these areas, as the proposals are either introduced for safety reasons or to provide a more appropriate balance of parking needs.

9 Legal Implications

- 9.1 The powers allowing the Borough Council to carry out parking management activity are contained in the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, supplemented by formal agreement with Kent County Council as the Local Highway Authority, in respect of its powers under the Traffic Management Act 2004. In particular section 122 of the Road Traffic Regulation 1984 Act imposes a general duty on local authorities exercising functions under the Act to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic (including pedestrians) and the provision of safe and adequate parking facilities on and off the highway.
- 9.2 The Borough Council carries out parking enforcement under an Agency agreement with Kent County Council by way of a Traffic Regulation Order, under the terms of the Road Traffic Act 1988 (and its amendments), the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and the Traffic Management Act 2004.

- 9.3 Changes to parking charges are made via an Amendment Orders to the Council's on and off-street parking Traffic Regulation Orders, using the procedures set out in the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 and will reflect any temporary amendments to procedures introduced to address Covid-19 restrictions. The proposals have followed and exceeded the requirements of the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England & Wales) Regulations 1996.
- 9.4 The matters raised in this report are considered to be routine, uncontroversial or not legally complex.

10 Cross Cutting Issues

10.1 Climate Change and Biodiversity

- 10.1.1 A moderate source of emissions is likely to be maintained at current levels or increased. Use of private motor vehicles remains a major source of carbon emissions.

11 Equalities and Diversity

- 11.1 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

Background Papers	None
Annexes	Annex 1 – Parking Action Plan - Phase 15 locations Annex 2 – Holding List