

Joint Transportation Board

03 March 2025

Part 1 - Public

Non-key Decision



Cabinet Member	Cllr Coffin, Cabinet Member for Transformation & Infrastructure
Responsible Officer	Robert Styles, Director of Street Scene, Leisure and Technical Services
Report Author	Andy Edwards, Head of Technical Services

Parking Update Report

1 Summary and Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report covers the progress of the current Phase (Phase 15), the larger area Parking Reviews and updates on Phase 14 of the Parking Action Plan.

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 maintaining the free flow of traffic on the roads and needs to be balanced to provide different users amenity parking.

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 Members are asked to consider the request to review the restrictions installed at Common Road, Blue Bell Hill following a request from the Local Members.
- 3.2 Members are asked 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 14

- 5.1 Phase 14 of the Parking Action Plan was introduced last autumn and has broadly achieved its goals.
- 5.2 However, we have been approached by the Local Members for Blue Bell Hill in relation to Common Road, Blue Bell Hill. Members have requested that Officers review the parking restrictions that have been installed with a view to removing them entirely.
- 5.3 There are also issues with completing the installation work over a short section of Oak Road, Aylesford where a resident has continuously parked in an area agreed for lining, but it is hoped that this will be completed in the near future.

6 Phase 15

- 6.1 The sites within Phase 15 (Annex 1) are currently out to informal consultation with frontagers for their views, which will be reported back to the next meeting of the Board.
- 6.2 This informal consultation started on 18th Feb 2025 and closes on 16th March 2025.
- 6.3 Plans of the proposals currently out to consultation are shown in Annex 2

7 Holding List

- 7.1 The current holding list of requests for changes under the Parking Action Plan is shown in Annex 3. It should be noted that not all locations on the list will be suitable for parking controls, and some locations may be duplicated, requested by different people, or have been submitted through a number of channels.

8 Parking Reviews

- 8.1 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.
- 8.2 There are currently three active Parking Reviews, Kings Hill, Hadlow and Hildenborough, with a future review programmed for Snodland.
- 8.3 Kings Hill Review – The first phase of parking management was installed in September 2024.
- 8.4 Hildenborough Parking Review – We have carried out the formal consultation stage of the Hildenborough Parking Review and are currently reviewing the consultation responses and objections. These will be reported to the next meeting of the Board.
- 8.5 Hadlow Parking Review - The Council intends to carry out the formal consultation on the Hadlow Parking Review shortly with a future report to this Board later this year.

9 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 9.1 Funding for the development of the Parking Plan is provided within existing revenue budgets.

10 Risk Assessment

- 10.1 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.

11 Legal Implications

- 11.1 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.

- 11.2 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.
- 11.3 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.
- 11.4 The matters raised in this report are considered to be routine, uncontroversial or not legally complex.

12 Cross Cutting Issues

12.1 Climate Change and Biodiversity

- 12.1.1 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.

13 Equalities and Diversity

- 13.1.1 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 – Phase 15 - List of sites Annex 2 – Phase 15 - Plans Annex 3 – Holding list