

Community Committee Meeting	
Meeting Date	31 October 2023
Report Title	Parking Policy Consultation Report
EMT Lead	Emma Wiggins – Director of Regeneration & Neighbourhoods
Head of Service	Martyn Cassell – Head of Leisure & Environment Philip Sutcliffe – Communications & Policy Manager
Lead Officer	Janet Dart – Policy & Engagement Officer
Classification	Open
Recommendations	1. Discuss and approve the Draft Parking Policy to go out to public consultation.

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report presents the draft Parking Policy (Appendix I) for discussion, amendment and agreement to go out to public consultation.
- 1.2 The policy includes the recommendations following the Parking Policy Member Working Group (PPMWG) review that was carried out at the request of the Community Committee.

2 Background

- 2.1 At the Community Committee meeting on 27 June 2023, the Committee agreed that a Parking Policy Member Working Group be set up. The PPMWG discussed and agreed the proposed scope of the Parking Policy and worked with officers to carry out a review of parking with a view to develop a draft policy to go out to public consultation.
- 2.2 The Community Committee agreed that the membership of the Working Group should be drawn from the Community Committee with one representative from each political group, plus the Chair. Following nominations from group leaders, the Working Group is made up of the following Members:
 - Councillor Richard Palmer - Chair
 - Councillor Elliott Jayes
 - Councillor Pete Neal
 - Councillor Hannah Perkin
 - Councillor Terry Thompson
 - Councillor Tony Winckless

- 2.3 The Parking Policy Working Group met to agree the scope of the review and officers took a report to Community Committee on 6 September 2023 when the following scope was agreed:
- Review of our existing tariff compared to others in Kent;
 - Consider differential town centre and out of town centre parking charges;
 - Consider if we should be charging in all car parks;
 - Review evening parking – different models and tariffs;
 - Consider if we should be charging for motorcycle parking;
 - Consider if we should increase the times of Controlled Parking Zones (CPZ) to protect residential areas;
 - Set policy for use of range of payment types – cash/card/telephone/Apps;
 - Set out the principles we will follow for Enforcement and;
 - Consider links to climate emergency (cleaner vehicles/active travel).
- 2.4 The PPMWG met to consider the following data to assist with reviewing the parking service with a view to making recommendations for the draft policy:
- Income from evening charges;
 - the usage of all Swale Borough Council (SBC) car parks;
 - a list of all free and chargeable car parks in Swale;
 - benchmarking of non-SBC car parks in Swale; and
 - the charging times and charges of car parks in other Kent districts.
- 2.5 The Chair of the PPMWG attended each of the four Area Committee meetings in September 2023 and presented the scope of the review and asked if the scope was right and if anything was missing. Appendix II provides a summary of feedback from each Area Committee. The PPMWG met to review the feedback before making their recommendations for the draft Parking Policy.
- 2.6 Members of the Working Group met with their political groups to seek their feedback on options for evening charges, motorcycle charging, differential charging and links to the climate emergency.
- 2.7 The PPMWG met on 2 October 2023 to review all feedback and make final decisions for recommendations to be included in the draft Parking Policy.
- 2.8 Further to the parking review carried out by the PPMWG, the following proposals will be referred for consideration at the annual fees and charges review:
- To move to a system where there are hourly charges up to 7 pm and then a set fee of £3 until the following morning at 7 am.
 - To introduce charging for motorcycles.
 - To consider charging at some free car parks either on a seasonal basis or at differential fees and hours of operation. This will be reviewed where car parks are well used at certain times of the year.
 - To review free car parks to consider introducing charging when user habits change.

- To investigate the feasibility of charging for motorhomes and campervans in certain locations.
- To monitor government guidance with the aim to provide more dynamic charging systems where appropriate.

3 Proposals

- 3.1 Members are asked to discuss the principles set out within the policy and agree for it to go out to public consultation.

4 Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

- 4.1 No alternative options were considered other than the 'do nothing' option. This was rejected because currently there is no Parking Policy and Members have requested that a review takes place, within the agreed scope, and a Policy agreed to give residents the reassurance that Swale Borough Council operate a fair parking service.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 SBC Members, Town and Parish Councillors and Members of the public were consulted at the September 2023 round of Area Committee meetings to seek feedback on what should be looked at as part of the Parking Policy review.
- 5.2 The PPMWG consulted with their political groups to seek their views on the options that were being considered.
- 5.3 An 8-week public consultation on the final draft of the Policy will take place once agreed by the Community Committee.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	None identified at this stage. The Corporate Plan is currently being updated and if any implications are identified, the Community Committee will be advised.
Financial, Resource and Property	The income received from car parking is a key element of the Council's budget and any decisions need to consider the Council's medium term financial strategy. Any implications may need to be reported to Policy and Resources followed by Full Council.
Legal, Statutory and Procurement	Decisions will need to ensure we meet statutory legislation and guidance as set out in the Road Traffic Act 1984 and Traffic Management Act 2004.

Crime and Disorder	During the policy development stage, due consideration was given to the community safety of residents.
Environment and Climate/Ecological Emergency	Decisions will need to support the climate emergency agenda aiming to improve air quality by reducing congestion.
Health and Wellbeing	None identified at this stage.
Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults	Consideration was given to parking outside schools to ensure the safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	None identified at this stage.
Equality and Diversity	An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out during the Policy Development stage (see Appendix III).
Privacy and Data Protection	None identified at this stage.

7 Appendices

7.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

Appendix I – Draft Parking Policy

Appendix II – Feedback from Area Committees.

Appendix III – Parking Policy Equality Impact Assessment

8 Background Papers

None.