

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda
Item No.

Report of Corporate Director of Enterprise, Tourism and
the Environment

to

**Traffic and Parking Working Party and
Cabinet Committee**

on

10th January 2013

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**Chalkwell and Leigh Area
Parking Issues**

**Executive Councillor: Councillor Tony Cox
A Part 1 Public Agenda Item**

1. Purpose of Report

For the Traffic and Parking Working Party and Cabinet Committee to consider officers response to the issues raised and discussed at the meeting in September 2012 following representations from the Chalkwell Parking Group and other residents and businesses from Chalkwell and Leigh area.

2. Recommendation

2.1 That the Traffic and Parking Working Party note the contents of the report, consider the proposals contained in para 4 and recommend these to the Cabinet Committee for approval.

2.2 That the Cabinet Committee approves the proposals contained in para 4 of the report and instruct officers to report back in June 2013 upon completion of the initial consultation by ward councillors.

3. Background

3.1 Members are aware that there have been a number of attempts to respond to residents issues over the past few years. The proposals for Parking Management Schemes in 2003 and 2009 were widely consulted resulting in there being no overall majority support on both occasions. As Members are aware such consultations are time consuming and cost intensive and often requires initial design prior to consultation. Following 2009 consultation regarding a Parking Management Scheme around Chalkwell Station which residents were opposed to, members agreed to the reduction of existing waiting restrictions to try and increase available parking spaces. These amendments were implemented using an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order process in December 2010 which allowed for any further amendments to be made very simply and quickly to assess the impact. Whilst the Order has a maximum

duration of 18 months, residents' comments and feedback were considered and amendments were made after six months of the operation. It was officers' view that the scheme has had a positive and beneficial impact and the experimental Order was confirmed as permanent.

- 3.2 At the last meeting of the Cabinet Committee, a number of residents attended and spoke about their concerns and perceptions of the situation particularly in relation to the resident led group, "Chalkwell Parking Group". Members may recall that there was an extensive discussion at the meeting but there was no evidence of any consensus or clear support for the suggestions put forward by the Chalkwell Parking Group and many of those in attendance expressed their views in a different manner, highlighting a varying degree of support for the status quo as well as some changes that may be beneficial. The Committee having listened to the proposals and views of those present at the meeting instructed officers to study suggestions made at the meeting and meet with the Ward Councillors to report back to the Committee in January 2013 with possible options for consideration with a view to assess what can realistically be done to deal with the issues raised by the residents where there is any consensus.

4. Officers Observations and recommendations.

- 4.1 Taking into account the previous history of proposals in Chalkwell, officers have assessed feasibility of the suggestion made by Chalkwell Parking Group in a manner that provides professional advice on the need, merits of the proposals and the likelihood of support that these may gain, particularly when all previous attempts to introduce Parking Management Schemes have failed because of the lack of majority support.
- 4.2 Members are also aware that earlier this year, they agreed a new strategy on Parking Management Schemes which went through the Economic and the Environment Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 30/11/12 and will shortly be considered by the Cabinet. The new policy reflects the public consultation experience during the last few years and in light of this sets parameters to gauge the level of public support. Any future scheme must receive a response to the consultation from at least 40% of residents within the consultation area and at least 70% must support the proposals. Bearing in mind the previous history and the new policy framework being considered, officers are recommending the following options for Members' consideration to assist in reducing parking pressure in residential areas and to improve parking controls to assist shoppers and commuters where possible, thereby addressing some of the concerns raised by the residents and businesses. This being:
- i) Broadway and Leigh Road- To increase parking time for shoppers from "one hour with no return in four hours" to "two hours with no return in four hours". This has been raised by the local residents and businesses and it is expected that the proposed change offers more time, which should help businesses.
 - ii) Belton Way – Currently Belton Way (both East and West). Currently there are a number of free parking spaces which are well under used. It is proposed that we retain 50% of this parking for resident dog walkers and shoppers and convert the rest to Pay & Display to charge commuters and

others. The proposals is to extend existing 2 hour, no return in 4 hours to 3 hours no return in 4 hours, giving residents and shoppers the greater flexibility and opportunity. It is also proposed that the tariff for Pay & Display will be the same as the Leigh Marshes Car Park which is currently £3 per day for commuters between the hours 0900-1000. It is anticipated that this proposal will reduce parking in surrounding residential streets and can divert some commuter parking from Chalkwell station car park.

- iii) Leigh Marshes Car Park – At present residents can park free after 10am. The £3 fee has been introduced during the hours 0900-1000 to regularise and charge commuters. It is proposed that the existing tariff is maintained for the foreseeable future.
- iv) Review of double yellow lines and Sunday restrictions – although we have already taken an opportunity earlier to review yellow lines, it is proposed that we continue to assess the need and applicability of double yellow lines to reduce these where possible.
- v) Parking Management Scheme - This has been subject of discussion with Ward Councillors from Chalkwell and Leigh before and after the last T & P Committee meeting in order to assess the issues raised by residents and consider the need for action and the way forward . In order to discuss the way forward a further meeting was held on 21/12/12 which was attended by all Ward Councillors from Chalkwell and Leigh as well as Cllr Cox. At this meeting we assessed the history, level of past support and justification for any wholesale Parking Management Scheme. In addition to the views expressed by the residents at the last committee meeting, we also discussed the road safety implications and level of concerns/complaints that have been made through Members and other processes. In recognising the fact that there is some need for action, the above proposals were agreed by Ward Councillors to be put forward to the T & P Committee for approval. However the need for Ward Councillors involvement and engagement in the process was considered paramount and it was agreed that:-
 - a) The Ward Councillors in collaboration with officers agrees the extent of the area boundaries for initial consultation to gauge public response within the spirit and the requirements of the new Parking Management Schemes Policy. This places far greater emphasis on Ward Councillors to undertake initial assessment work in order to justify the proposals and provide evidence that such a scheme is needed in the area, has the support of most of the people in the area and has a reasonable chance that on formal consultation will be supported by a majority.
 - b) As such the Ward Councillors will undertake the initial consultation phase by April 2013 which will then be assessed by officers against the new policy. It is expected that the findings of this work will be reported to the June 2013 meeting of the Traffic & Parking Working Party and the Cabinet Committee with a set of proposals based on the initial consultation completed by the Ward Councillors.

5. Other Options

- 5.1 Other options available to Members are to consider an area wide parking management scheme. This does not appear to be a viable option at this stage based on past experience through consultation and the views expressed by those present at the last meeting. On the other hand taking “No Action” is an option which is not recommended. The options presented have been agreed by Ward Councillors from Chalkwell and Leigh and offer a way forward to address some of the key concerns raised by the residents at this stage whilst the follow-up consultation by Ward Councillors can proceed on the Parking Management Scheme option.

6. Reasons for Recommendations

- 6.1 The proposals are intended to deal with feasible options and recommend the way forward to address residents concerns.

7. Corporate Implications

- 7.1 Contribution to Council’s Vision & Corporate Priorities.

- 7.1.1 Ensuring parking is managed while maintaining adequate access for emergency vehicles and general traffic flow.

- 7.2 Financial Implications

- 7.2.1 The cost of the proposals contained within the report can be met from the existing budgets.

- 7.3 Legal Implications

- 7.3.1 The statutory consultative processes as may be applicable will need to be completed in accordance with the requirements of the legislation.

- 7.4 People Implications

- 7.4.1 The proposals will be progressed and implement within the existing staff resources.

- 7.5 Property Implications

- 7.5.1 None

- 7.6 Consultation

- 7.6.1 Initial consultation will be undertaken by Ward Councillors for assessing the need for a Parking Management Scheme and a formal consultation will then follow if there is justifiable demand.

8. Background Papers

Previous reports to T & P dated 2nd November 2009, 8th September 2011

9. Appendices

None