

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 10 November 2009
Report of: Strategic Director Places
Subject/Title: Residents' Parking Policy
Portfolio Holder: Councillor David Brickhill

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 This report presents the proposed Residents' Parking Policy for Cheshire East Borough Council.

2.0 Decision Requested

- 2.1 To adopt the Residents' Parking Policy and Guidelines (Appendix 1).

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 In accordance with Cheshire East's Parking Strategy agreed by Cabinet on 21st April 2009, this policy now seeks to address the parking needs of residents in areas which are affected by non-residential parking or other parking restrictions.
- 3.2 Residents' Parking Schemes form part of the holistic approach to parking management in our towns and villages and a robust policy will ensure the Authority is able to implement schemes fairly across the Borough.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 All.

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 All

6.0 Policy Implications including - Climate change - Health

- 6.1 Residents' Parking Schemes seek to prioritise the parking needs of residents in areas which are affected by non-residential parking. This will reduce congestion in these areas by managing traffic flow and access needs. Reduced vehicle emissions will help improve air quality in residential streets.

7.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

7.1 N/A

8.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

8.1 A capital programme bid for £480,000 over 3 years from 2010/11 has been submitted to support the implementation of schemes across the Borough. This has been profiled £285,000:2010/11, £105,000:2011/12 and £90,000:2012/13 to reflect the fact that there is already significant 'unmet' demand for these schemes in areas where charging and control of both on- and off-street parking is been in place.

8.2 It is intended that schemes will be self-funding from an annual charge. For the purposes of the current pilot schemes a figure of £50 has been used for participating residents (Chester has a well-developed Residents' Parking Scheme and charges £60 per annum for a permit) This is a typical annual charge for these schemes and is set to cover the costs of the repayment of the initial capital investment and ongoing management and enforcement.

8.3 Suggested charges for all types of permit are set out in Section 8 of the attached guidelines. It is intended to explore a range of charging options for future schemes based on national best practice.

9.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

9.1 The introduction of a residents parking scheme is achieved by the making of a traffic regulation order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and in accordance with the procedure laid down in The Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.

10.0 Risk Management

10.1 The principal risk to the Authority will be the effect on the Council's reputation of not implementing schemes in a fair and transparent way and failing to deliver on the Car Parking Strategy policy framework.

11.0 Background and Options

11.1 The proposed policy follows well established national principles for Residents Parking Schemes and has been developed locally through the existing pilot schemes currently being implemented in Wilmslow and Macclesfield. The Environment and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee have already reviewed and amended the Policy at their meeting on 23rd Sept 2009.

11.2 Their recommendations have been included in the final version for Cabinet's consideration. However, the Committee asked that Cabinet specifically comment on Section 10 (4th bullet point) of the Policy. This point seeks to

differentiate between the causes of residential parking problems and recognise that it is difficult to operate a scheme which in effect asks the Council to make choices as to which residents may or may not park in a street or zone. Schemes are best suited to streets where non-resident parking has created difficulties for residents.

- 11.3 The Policy provides suitable, well-established guidelines and criteria for evaluating and prioritising schemes. This is essential as a large number of applications are expected and officers need to be able to demonstrate that a fair and robust method has been used to select and prioritise those that may go forward to implementation.
- 11.3 The Policy emphasises the importance of full consultation with residents, local businesses, Town or Parish Councils, Emergency Services and the involvement of Ward Councillors before any scheme is implemented.
- 11.4 During the recent statutory consultation process and the public meetings for the introduction of charging and control in the former Congleton Borough Council area, Residents' Parking Schemes were highlighted by local people as being of vital importance to both deal with their existing problems of *non-residents* on-street parking and any potential displacement from the existing car parks into residential areas.

12.0 Overview of Year One and Term One Issues

N/A

13.0 Access to Information

Enclosures:

APPENDIX 1: Cheshire East Borough Council Residents' Parking Policy

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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