



CABINET

Tuesday, 05 July 2022

Subject	Area Parking Reviews
Report by	Cllr Norman Brooks Cabinet Member with responsibility for Transport
Supporting Officer	Lewis Boudville Transport, Infrastructure & Parking Services Manager Parking.services@eastsuffolk.gov.uk 01502 523260

Is the report Open or Exempt?	OPEN
-------------------------------	------

Category of Exempt Information and reason why it is NOT in the public interest to disclose the exempt information.	Not applicable.
Wards Affected:	All Wards

Purpose and high-level overview

Purpose of Report:

To recommend approval from Cabinet for a review of the existing parking management regulations and the introduction of new parking management schemes within East Suffolk.

East Suffolk Council is working to ensure that parking regulations – which include resident parking, short term parking bays, double yellow lines, and so on – meet changing local demands, including shifting patterns of town centre use, and growth in housing. Current regulations may not meet these needs – instead, they may represent historic needs. This review and additional resource are necessary to support towns and residents in East Suffolk.

The efficient and effective review of existing parking regulations and the development of proposals for new regulations will require additional specialist resource to deliver the necessary work in a timely manner.

Options:

- Do nothing. There is an option to not undertake the proposed review and for parking regulations within the district to remain as they are.
- Proceed as recommended below.

Recommendation/s:

1. That the Head of Operations be authorised to implement the review of existing parking management regulations within the district, in consultation with the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Transport.
2. That a Supplementary Budget of £21,000 for 2022/23 and £42,000 for future years be approved for the appointment of a Highways Technician/Engineer to provide the resource and capability necessary for undertaking the review and implement the consequent changes to parking management regulations within the district.

Corporate Impact Assessment

Governance:

None arising directly from the recommendations of this report.

ESC policies and strategies that directly apply to the proposal:

East Suffolk Strategic Plan 2020 - 2024

Environmental:

The recommendations of this report positively contribute to the environmental and carbon neutral aims of the East Suffolk Strategic Plan 2020-2024 where we promise to put environmental issues at the heart of everything we do. The review will aim to reduce carbon emissions by ensuring that parking provision is in the right location, which removes the need for vehicles to 'hunt' for parking spaces in towns creating congestion.

Equalities and Diversity:

An Equalities Impact Assessment is not required as the recommendation in this report will not impact equality and diversity. An EIA will be completed prior to any changes being implemented where there is a potential impact on particular groups.

Financial:

Recruitment of a Highways Technician/Engineer (anticipated at Band 4/5 – mid point with oncosts £41,436). It may be possible to fund this post by way of virement from other areas of the service, and in addition, there could effectively be an element of self-financing through increased parking income. However, as this situation is not guaranteed, the recommendation in this report is for a Supplementary Budget of £21,000 (part year) for 2022/23, and £42,000 for subsequent years be approved for this post.

Human Resources:

Recruitment of a Highways Technician/Engineer to complete the review of existing parking management regulations. This post will sit within the Parking Services team, reporting to the Transport, Infrastructure & Parking Services Manager.

ICT:

None arising directly from the recommendations of this report. If changes will need to be made to GIS maps, or the Taranto parking management system following the review, these will be made at the time.

Legal:

Changes to traffic regulation orders following the review may require further Cabinet approval and consultation.

Risk:

None arising directly from the recommendations of this report.

External Consultees:

Relevant town and parish councils, Business Improvement Districts and Suffolk County Council will be consulted during the review process. Other bodies, such as the Lowestoft Place Board, will also be consulted – as will bodies representing local businesses.

Strategic Plan Priorities

Select the priorities of the Strategic Plan which are supported by this proposal: (Select only one primary and as many secondary as appropriate)		Primary priority	Secondary priorities
T01	Growing our Economy		
P01	Build the right environment for East Suffolk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P02	Attract and stimulate inward investment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P03	Maximise and grow the unique selling points of East Suffolk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P04	Business partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P05	Support and deliver infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
T02	Enabling our Communities		
P06	Community Partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P07	Taking positive action on what matters most	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P08	Maximising health, well-being, and safety in our District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P09	Community Pride	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
T03	Maintaining Financial Sustainability		
P10	Organisational design and streamlining services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P11	Making best use of and investing in our assets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P12	Being commercially astute	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P13	Optimising our financial investments and grant opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P14	Review service delivery with partners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
T04	Delivering Digital Transformation		
P15	Digital by default	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P16	Lean and efficient streamlined services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P17	Effective use of data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P18	Skills and training	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P19	District-wide digital infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

T05	Caring for our Environment		
P20	Lead by example	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P21	Minimise waste, reuse materials, increase recycling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P22	Renewable energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P23	Protection, education, and influence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
XXX	Governance		
XXX	How ESC governs itself as an authority	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
How does this proposal support the priorities selected? The proposals will ensure that East Suffolk Council (the Council) is meeting its delegated responsibilities and is administering civil parking enforcement in a fair, reasonable and consistent manner. This contributes to the safety of all highway users travelling around the district's towns, allows the Council to work in partnership with other councils and organisations, and gives us the opportunity to consider our environmental aims. Transport planning and parking management is about enabling people to travel in the district for work, and leisure and to be able to do this safely and with minimum impact on the environment.			

Background and Justification for Recommendation

1	Background facts		
1.1	It was apparent on the transfer of parking enforcement powers to the local authorities from the police that many parking regulations were out of date. They had, in many cases, not kept up with changing patterns of town centre use, new housing developments and increases in populations in our towns. Parking management is not simply about enforcement but ensuring that parking regulations facilitate the most efficient use of the highway network whilst supporting the local economy, visitors, and residents. As these are key areas of interest for local authorities, members consider it a priority to conduct a review and make changes where needed.		
1.2	SCC is responsible for the installations of 'signs and lines' to let drivers know where they can and cannot park. These signs and lines are legally installed via a traffic regulation order (TRO). installations, but. But SCC does not have the resource to conduct district-wide reviews to identify problems, so regulations that are out of date and need removing, and areas where there are currently no or inadequate regulations, cannot be considered and amendments made to the TROs. The consequence of this negatively affects this Council's ability to administer CPE efficiently and effectively, which in turn undermines road user safety and the efficient operation of the highway network.		
1.3	SCC has delegated to East Suffolk the necessary functions to maintain regulation installations in accordance with Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions (TSRGD), and to make, vary or revoke orders affecting on-street paid parking places. Effective parking management requires many types of regulations so we will need to work in partnership with SCC to effect appropriate changes for parking management regulations.		

1.4	Senior officers acknowledged process difficulties with SCC and consulted with SCC officers via the Suffolk Chief Officer Leadership Team (SCOLT). The meeting was positive – with a recognition at both District and County level that a review was overdue and support for addressing the issues was necessary.
-----	--

2 Current position

2.1	SCC is the Highway Authority and has responsibility for highway management including parking management regulations. The relationship between ESC and SCC in relation to parking was covered by a document called The Agency Agreement, which states TROs cannot be made “...without the specific written consent of the County Council. (The County Council will only withhold consent for technical reasons. This would be if it considers that road safety or traffic management would be adversely affected or if there would be adverse consequential impacts on other parts of the highway network.).
2.2	The district councils (District Councils, in this case East Suffolk Council)ESC, have been delegated ability to install parking regulations where fees apply, and these are limited to permit bays and pay-and-display bays (paid parking places). Delegated functions also include the maintenance of existing ones as they pertain to CPE administration.
2.3	<p>The review will focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • confirming existing permit management regulations are still valid; • identifying streets where permit management regulations will prioritise on-street parking opportunities for groups, most likely residents; and • identify areas where parking demand could be balanced using paid parking regulations. <p>Identifying areas where other regulations may improve the availability of parking for other road users (e.g., short stay parking to support town centre shopping)</p>
2.4	There is currently insufficient capacity in the Transport, Infrastructure & Parking Services team to adequately fulfil the requirements of the Highways Engineer function, which is a specialist role.

3 How to address current situation

3.1	The review will identify changes to parking availability on the streets of East Suffolk. These opportunities will then need to be worked up into a ‘parking scheme’ that is fit for purpose, and that the Council has the powers to enforce. To do this, it is necessary to employ a Highways Technician/Engineer reporting to and guided by the Transport, Infrastructure & Parking Services Manager. The new role will be dedicated to the task of partnership working with SCC to effect the necessary TRO and TSRGD compliance.
3.2	The commissioning of a consultant for town-by-town reviews would be more costly and less effective at developing the professional relationships required to deliver this part of the Parking Services remit.
3.3	The introduction of this specialist role delivered with consideration to transport planning and management policies and objectives, will enable:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the necessary review of the current parking management regulation in each town to ascertain the level of existing regulations' legislation compliance the rectifying of TSRGD issues where the regulations are deemed still applicable partnership working with SCC to revoke or introduce regulations as required considering existing and future travel management solutions and the resultant parking management necessary the building of the applicable transport strategy and plan knowledge for consideration to mobility services at local, sub-national, and national levels sustained liaison with the Economic Development & Regeneration and Communities teams, the relevant town and parish councils, and to seek views from BIDs to enable informed decisions to be made for the delivery of strategic parking management regulations benefitting all highway users liaison with Planning to ensure consideration of potential land use changes e.g., large housing and commercial developments or other changes to the infrastructure thereby futureproofing solutions from a mobility, traffic movement and parking management perspective consideration of East Suffolk's mobility needs to meet the Council's strategic aim of being carbon neutral by 2030
3.4	<p>The proposed key activities and milestones are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cabinet Report for approval of approach – 05/07/2022 2. Recruit Highways Technician/Engineer – 30/09/2022 3. Audit of parking regulations town by town – 30/09/2022 to 31/12/2022 4. Report on findings and sketch proposals for new parking management regulations – 31/01/2023 5. Discussions and agreement with SCC on action plan for resolving the identified issues – 28/02/2023 6. Remove/introduce regulations to ensure compliance with Traffic Sign Regulations and General Directions and Traffic Regulation Orders – 31/08/2023 7. Commencement of new schemes' delivery on a town-by-town basis - 01/04/2023

4 Reason/s for recommendation

4.1	The proposed review and the deployment of the additional resource and capacity being recommended will facilitate the development of local strategies that better support the needs of East Suffolk businesses and residents.
-----	--

Appendices

Appendices:

None.

Background reference papers:

None.