

NAME OF COMMITTEE	Community Services
DATE	11th March 2014
REPORT TITLE	West Devon Car Parking Strategy
Report of	Street Scene Manager
WARDS AFFECTED	All

Summary of report:

This report makes recommendations in respect of a review of the West Devon Car Parking Strategy.

Financial implications:

None at this stage.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Committee endorse the proposal that a Car Parking Strategy Group be formally established and appointed to at the Annual Council meeting in May 2014.

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Members will be aware that the Borough Council put in place a strategy for the car parking service in 2006. This was at the time a ground breaking piece of work and has helped the Council to form strong relationships with service stakeholders since its inception. It has also assisted the Council in delivering bespoke tariff designs in specific localities, for example Chagford whilst maintaining income streams.
- 1.2 The strategy has also allowed the Council to ensure that a measured approach to tariff setting is taken. It is clear, however, that motorist behaviour has changed over recent years for a variety of reasons, including:
 - Weather
 - Recession
 - Cost of fuel
 - Development of on-line shopping

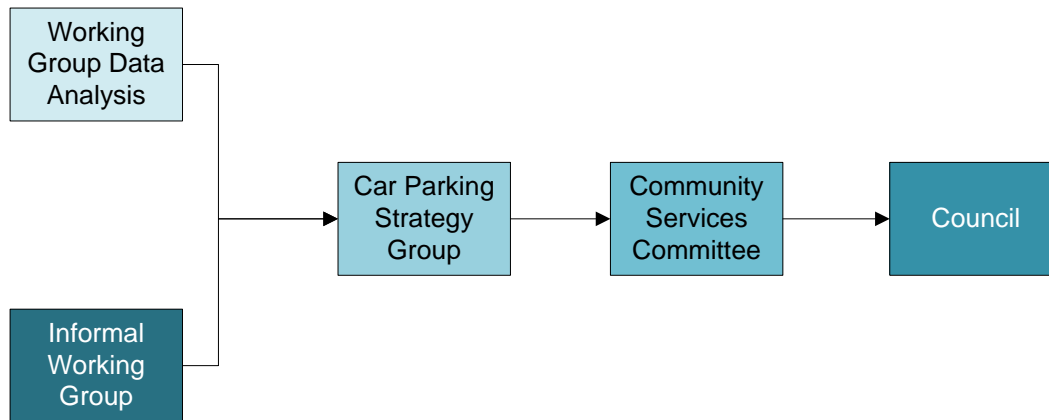
For these reasons the current strategy needs to be reviewed. The previous formula of increasing Pay & Display income by RPI every two years is no longer suitable and, indeed, has not been used since April 2010.

- 1.3 A report from the Democratic Services Manager, presented to this Committee on 12th November 2013, resolved that:
- (i) a review be undertaken into the Council's Car Parking Strategy as outlined in paragraphs 2.1 to 2.3 of the officer's report, with Councillors K Ball and J Moody being so appointed; and,
 - (ii) the future governance in respect of the Car Parking Strategy Group be formalised as outlined in paragraphs 2.4 to 2.7 of the officer's report.

2. STEPS TAKEN

- 2.1 The Street Scene Manager and the Support Services Manager have met with Councillors Ball and Moody on two occasions and provided data taken from our Pay & Display machines for analysis. Their findings will be fed through to the strategy review process.
- 2.2 It is suggested that, in light of the above resolutions, at the Annual Council meeting in May 2014, the Car Parking Strategy Group should be formalised, with Member appointments being formally agreed.
- 2.3 As an informal Group, it is important to stress that it will have no decision-making powers and will report directly to the Community Services Committee. At its first meeting, the intention would be for the Strategy Group to agree its Terms of Reference. As an indication, it is suggested that these Terms of Reference would include:
- To develop (and then be responsible for reviewing) a new Car Parking Strategy; and
 - To review and make recommendations on future car parking charges.
- 2.4 This approach also embeds the 'golden thread' principle of tracking data analysis through to tariff setting decisions which was highlighted by Audit Committee as an area for improvement.
- 2.5 It is felt important that local BIDs, Chambers of Commerce, Town and Parish Councils, Devon County Council and other possible stakeholders should continue to be invited to be part of the group.
- 2.6 The flow chart below indicates how information will be fed into the Community Services Committee, and demonstrates the Council's commitment to a continuing relationship with interested stakeholders in respect of its car parking service:

REVIEW OF CAR PARKING STRATEGY



2.7 The importance of the formalised flow of information is to ensure that the work of both the working groups as well as the strategic stakeholder group is properly considered and evaluated when making strategic service decisions. This is especially important given the current economic challenges being faced within affected town and village centres. The strategic group has been extremely useful in providing local service intelligence and in building local solutions to specific parking issues.

3. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The Council has power to provide off-street parking under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended).

3.2 The Council has the power to deal with the provision, management and control of car parks.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None at this stage.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT

5.1 The Risk Management implications are shown at the end of this report in the Strategic Risks Template.

6. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Corporate priorities engaged:	Community well being; access to services; towards excellence; customer first
Statutory powers:	
Considerations of equality and human rights:	Not applicable
Biodiversity considerations:	Not applicable
Sustainability	Not applicable

considerations:	
Crime and disorder implications:	Not applicable
Background papers:	Report of the Democratic Services Manager to the Community Services Committee on 12 November 2013 and the consequent minutes arising from this meeting.
Appendices attached:	None

STRATEGIC RISKS TEMPLATE

No	Risk Title	Risk/Opportunity Description	Inherent risk status				Mitigating & Management actions	Ownership
			Impact of negative outcome	Chance of negative outcome	Risk score and direction of travel			
1.	Software reports	It is often difficult to obtain adequate information from the software without a substantial amount of officer time in running many reports and then pulling the information together	2	3	6	↓	<p>Issues have been taken up with provider</p> <p>Member support in evaluating detailed information will be invaluable</p> <p>For the strategy group to gain a clearer understanding of the data available and how it supports Members in working towards desired outcomes</p>	C. Aubertin

Direction of travel symbols ↓ ↑ ⇄

