

Report to: **West Devon Borough Council**
Date: **5 December 2017**
Title: **West Devon Parking Strategy**
Portfolio Area: **Environment Services (Cllr Robert Sampson)**
Wards Affected: **All**
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:

Urgent Decision: **N** Approval and clearance obtained: **Y**

Date next steps can be taken: *(e.g. referral on of recommendation or implementation of substantive decision)*

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Recommendations:

That Council endorse and adopt the West Devon Parking Strategy as set out in Appendix A.

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 This report requests that Members consider the recommendation to adopt the West Devon Parking Strategy (Appendix A), as considered and agreed by the West Devon Parking Strategy Group.

2. Background

- 2.1 Having recognised that the previous Parking Strategy was so outdated that it was unable to be amended, the Strategy Group considered that a new Strategy was required.

3. Outcomes/outputs

- 3.1 At its meeting on the 1st November 2016, the Strategy Group agreed that the new strategy should be drafted on the following agreed basis:
- 3.2 "Pay and Display car parks are provided in Tavistock, Okehampton, Chagford and Hatherleigh largely for historical reasons. The strategy should recognise that the present car parks are provided for the convenience of local residents and also to provide tourism and economic viability generally. It should also be recognised that car parks are owned by West Devon Borough Council with a view to be of benefit not only the towns where they are located but also the interests of the wider West Devon community. The Borough Council's first obligation is to offer well-maintained, well-managed car park at reasonable charges in the context of the particular circumstances of the various towns.
- 3.3 Any change to parking charges, whether an increase or decrease, should be considered in light of the impact on the entire borough and in terms of how those charges compare against a similar authorities. Charges should be reviewed annually when an increase may be considered in the light of the rate of inflation, maintenance costs etc.
- 3.4 The strategy shall recognise that the particular needs of the four towns are different and the Borough Council will seek to account for that in proposals for changes in charges or charging hours. Views from the respective Town or Parish Councils and business organisations will be actively sought.
- 3.5 Any proposal to create additional car parks or dispose of any existing car parks in whole or part shall be considered by the Borough Council in the light of its obligations both to the economic wellbeing of the particular town and West Devon generally."
- 3.6 At the following meeting, held on 2nd May 2017, the new strategy document (Appendix A) was considered and agreed, albeit now updated with revised permit charges.

4. Options available and consideration of risk

- 4.1 The strategy provides a clear and transparent process for managing and developing the car parking service. This reduces the risk of inconsistency in decision making for the Council and subsequent reputational damage.

5. Proposed Way Forward

- 5.1 That the strategy should be adopted, and that the Parking Strategy Group continue to play a key advisory role in the development of the Borough Council's parking service.

6. Implications

Implications	Relevant to proposals Y/N	Details and proposed measures to address
Legal/Governance		<p>The Council has power to provide off-street parking under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended).</p> <p>The Council has the power to deal with the provision, management and control of car parks.</p> <p>The Council has the powers to provide this service under the General Powers of Competence in the Localism Act 2011.</p>
Financial		None at this stage.
Risk		None at this stage.
Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications		
Equality and Diversity		A comprehensive impact assessment has been completed in respect of this matter which shows that no further action is required.
Safeguarding		No implications.
Community Safety, Crime and Disorder		No potential positive or negative impact on crime and disorder reduction.
Health, Safety and Wellbeing		No implications.
Other implications		None.

Supporting Information

Appendix A – West Devon Borough Council Car Parking Strategy