

101. **Review of Local Transport Plan - Car Parking Strategy**

The Committee considered a report in January 2010 which set out the proposed methodology and timescale for reviewing the Local Transport Plan – Parking Plan. Upon consideration the Committee resolved to receive a further update prior to the Plan’s submission to Cabinet in December 2010.

The Cabinet Member for Parking and the Team Leader – Transport Planning were in attendance to provide an overview of the consultation process undertaken and the presentation made to Area Boards.

Clarification was provided that one option to be considered was the ability of town and parish councils to take on the responsibility of car parking management within their areas. This would take the form of a lease which was estimated to run for two year periods. The maintenance costs associated per individual car park currently equated to approximately £5k. Details of the full operational costs would be made available to those town and parish councils considering the lease option.

The review had been undertaken to provide consistency in car parking throughout the County.

The review took into consideration the new national, regional and local policies and would assist with the Framework for developers to highlight what parking standards were required. The plans in place by neighbouring authorities had also been considered as part of the review.

The consultation process itself included the use of a web portal which allowed people to make comments throughout the process. Letters to town and parish councils informing them of the options under consideration were also sent. The Transport Plan was used to identify a further 8,000 contacts who were also sent details of the consultation.

The concept of banding towns was supported although there was some disagreement with the proposed banding itself, i.e. that a specific town should not be included within a given band.

Although a number of residents did not agree with any of the 3 options provided, the majority supported the idea of conventional charges.

A fundamental review on charges would be undertaken in 5 years although annual reviews would take place to ensure that the Plan remained appropriate and in line with other authorities.

New housing developments adhered to the current policy position, (i.e. a set parking space ratio per house). The Committee supported this being changed to reflect the minimum parking standards.

The Committee noted that parking charges as a whole were lower in Wiltshire than many neighbouring authorities and that parking management needed to

be the focus of any resulting plan. The review provided an opportunity for town and parish councils to manage their own parking and, as a result, to decide themselves what level of charges, if any, to impose.

It was also noted that the responses received through Area Boards could be construed as one source. As the Area Boards were representative of the 18 areas of Wiltshire the Committee felt that this could have been made clearer. Clarification was received that the comments received from Area Boards would be noted within the resulting report for Cabinet approval.

Members also felt that Area Boards would be the appropriate platform to inform the public of the decisions made on car parking charges.

It was questioned whether the consultation process itself may have contributed to the poor response as the procedure for submitting responses could deter some residents from responding.

A motion was received to recommend that the Cabinet Member 'embrace' the localism agenda and recognise that a 'one size fits all' approach was not appropriate. Each town/parish council should negotiate with Wiltshire Council individually within a Council led accounting framework.

Upon vote the motion was not passed although it was noted that Councillors reserved the right to submit a minority report within the next 10 days of the decision made.

Following the meeting a minority report was received which is duly attached to these minutes as Appendix 1.

**Resolved:**

**To congratulate the Cabinet member on the work undertaken and note the update provided and request that the comments made are taken into consideration by the Cabinet member prior to the final reports submission to Cabinet.**

