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## **REVIEW OF PARKING ISSUES**

**Report by Service Director Assets & Infrastructure**

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### **EXECUTIVE**

**16 APRIL 2019**

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#### **1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report presents the findings of the Parking Issues Working Group and comments on the recommendations contained in that report.**
- 1.2 Following a recommendation from the Executive Committee on 7 November 2017 a Working Group was established to explore innovative solutions to parking issues in the Scottish Borders.
- 1.3 The Working Group has now concluded their investigations and a report on their findings, with recommendations, is attached as an appendix to this covering report.
- 1.4 The Corporate Management Team considered the Report of the Working Group and endorsed the findings, subject to sufficient resources being available, apart from Recommendation Five.

#### **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 **the Executive Committee will be asked to:-**
  - (a) Note the findings of the Parking Issues Working Group;**
  - (b) Note that Corporate Management Team endorses the following recommendations of the Working Group:**
    - (i) Recommendation One (Review of TROs) – Estimated cost £205k in-house or £225k external;**
    - (ii) Recommendation Two (Car parking directional signage) – Estimated cost £28,500;**
    - (iii) Recommendation Three (Updating single and double yellow lining; parking bay review; dropped kerbs) – Estimated cost from £28,250 to £278,250;**

- (iv) Recommendation Four (media campaign to “park fair”) – Estimated cost £10k;**
- (v) Recommendation Six (Feasibility study) – Estimated cost £35k;**
- (c) Agree not to proceed at this time with Recommendation Five of the Working Group Report (Potential Enforcement regimes) with parking issues continuing to be addressed through the work of the 2 No. Police Community Action Teams in the interim; and that further report be brought to Executive Committee after one full year of operation to review the effectiveness of those teams; and**
- (d) Agree that, given that the estimated cost of implementing Recommendations One to Four and Recommendation Six of the Working Group Report is within a range of £306,750 and £576,570, Officers will proceed to implement these as and when funding is available within current resources, but noting that works will commence during 2019/20 and continue in future years as part of normal business activities.**

### **3 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 It was agreed at the Executive Committee meeting on 7 November 2017 that a Working Group should be set up to look at innovative solutions to parking issues in the Scottish Borders. Final terms for the Working Group were approved by the Executive Committee at its meeting on 17 April 2018.
- 3.2 The Working Group comprised seven Councillors, and they were assisted during the process by a number of officers.
- 3.3 The Working Group has now concluded their investigations and their findings and recommendations are attached as an appendix to this covering report.

### **4 LAYOUT OF WORKING GROUP REPORT AND FINDINGS**

- 4.1 Section 1 of the Working Group Report gives a brief summary of aspects associated with parking in the Scottish Borders since 2002, before going on to outline the background to the setting up of the Working Group.
- 4.2 The Terms of Reference established for the Working Group are detailed in Section 2 of the Working Group Report; along with the names of the Councillors and officers who were involved in the process. In determining the Terms of Reference the Working Group identified eight separate areas of scope under the following broad objective:

*To ensure the Council maximises parking opportunities in Border towns, ensuring sufficient turnover within town centres to bring economic benefits to the businesses located there, and, where parking restrictions are in place, that these are clearly marked and enforceable.*

- 4.3 Further background on how the review was undertaken is provided in Section 3 of the Working Group Report.
- 4.4 In section 4 of the Working Group Report the individual areas of scope, identified through the Terms of Reference, are discussed in more detail. Two areas to highlight within this are: (a) the opportunity, through a drop-in session, for all Ward Members to contribute to the process in terms of parking issues that they were aware of within their own areas; and (b) the two survey opportunities that were provided to the public as part of the process.
- 4.5 Finally in section 5 of the Working Group report, the key findings and recommendations of the group are outlined. In-line with the identified scope, estimated costings are provided for each of the recommendations with further detail of how these costings were arrived at in section 4.37.
- 4.6 In addition to the sections discussed above there is, at the front of the document, an Executive Summary that incorporates the recommendations.

## **5 CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM REVIEW**

- 5.1 The Parking Issues Working Group report was considered by the Corporate Management Team (CMT) at its meeting of 28 November 2018.
- 5.2 It was determined at that time that CMT was not able to support the option of a Decriminalised Parking Enforcement regime being included as Recommendation 5 of the Working Group. In particular it was noted that the evidence from recent and previous surveys did not demonstrate a significant enough problem level to warrant such an intervention, which would require to be implemented across the entire Council area and not just in urban centres. Concern was also expressed that such an intervention would be unlikely to be effective at the manning levels costed and would potentially be detrimental to the local business economy as well as being an additional funding burden on the Council at a time when it was facing unprecedented financial pressure. In addition, it was noted that the Council is already currently funding these types of activities through the Police Community Action Team which commenced operations in 2018.

## **6 IMPLICATIONS**

### **6.1 Financial**

There are significant financial implications associated with the other recommendations in the Working Group's report. The estimated cost of each of the recommendations is detailed in section 5 of the Working Group report and summarised below:

- (a) Recommendation One (Review of TROs) – Estimated cost £205k in-house or £225k external;
- (b) Recommendation Two (Car parking directional signage) – Estimated cost £28,500;
- (c) Recommendation Three (Updating single and double yellow lining; parking bay review; dropped kerbs) – Estimated cost from £28,250 up to £278,250;
- (d) Recommendation Four (media campaign to "park fair") – Estimated cost £10,000;
- (e) Recommendation Five (potential enforcement regimes) – Estimated cost from £20,000 to £327,900; and
- (f) Recommendation Six (Feasibility study) – Estimated cost £35,000.

As no specific budget has been identified to advance the above recommendations all costs incurred will require to be found within the existing roads budget commensurate with other priorities and staff resource.

## 6.2 Risk and Mitigations

- (a) There is a risk that financial and/or staff resources are insufficient to undertake the identified works. This can be mitigated through internal review, budget planning and through close liaison with Police Scotland and monitoring of the effect of any changes.
- (b) There is a risk that the proposed measures do not fully address the issues and concerns that have been raised. This can be mitigated through close liaison with Police Scotland and continued monitoring of the impact that the Community Action Team is having.

## 6.3 Equalities

- (a) As this report does not propose to introduce any new policy or service an Equalities Impact Assessment has not been undertaken.
- (b) It is anticipated that there are no adverse impact due to race, disability, gender, age, sexual orientation or religion/belief arising from the proposals in this report.

## 6.4 Acting Sustainably

There are no significant economic, social or environmental issues associated with this report.

## 6.5 Carbon Management

There are no significant impacts on the Council's carbon emissions that are additional to current operation.

## 6.6 Rural Proofing

There are no rural proofing impacts resulting from this report.

## 6.7 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

There are no changes which are required to either the Scheme of Administration or the Scheme of Delegation as a result of the proposals in this report.

# 7 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Service Director HR, the Clerk to the Council and Communications have been consulted and any comments received included in the covering report. The Corporate Management Team considered the Report of the Working Group and endorsed the findings, subject to sufficient resources being available, apart from Recommendation Five.

**Approved by**

**Martin Joyce**

**Service Director Assets & Infrastructure**

**Signature .....**

**Author(s)**

| Name        | Designation and Contact Number           |
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**Background Papers:**

**Previous Minute Reference:** Executive Committee, 7 November 2017

**Note** – You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the address below. Jacqueline Whitelaw can also give information on other language translations as well as providing additional copies.

Contact us at Jacqueline Whitelaw, PLACE, Business Support, Scottish Borders Council, Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells, Melrose, TD6 0SA, Tel 0300 100 1800, email [JWhitelaw@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:JWhitelaw@scotborders.gov.uk).