

### Purpose and summary:

1. **This paper proposes that a Sub Group of the Tweeddale Area Partnership should be set up to carry out a review of parking in Peebles, with a particular focus on off-street parking.**
2. There is currently a widespread perception by residents in Peebles and Tweeddale that there is insufficient off-street car parking available in Peebles and the current provision is not being used efficiently.
3. A review was carried out by a Parking Sub Committee of the Tweeddale Area Forum in 2013 leading to changes in parking payment regulation across the off-street car parks in Peebles being implemented in 2015.
4. Since 2015 there has been an increase in population with the development of additional housing, and this has led to an increase in commuter traffic to Edinburgh. Further housing development is underway or planned which will add to this increase.
5. Since 2015 there has been an increase in the number and scale of events in and around Peebles, and tourist numbers in general. The rise in visitor numbers is likely to increase and this will be amplified should the current Tweed Valley Tourism BID be successful.
6. The impact of the removal of Traffic Wardens by Police Scotland in February 2014 was not fully evident when the previous review was carried out.
7. There is a greater awareness of the need to reduce carbon emissions and encourage the use of electric vehicles, public transport and reduce dependency on the use of cars.
8. The Draft Locality plan for Tweeddale states in the section headed "Our Economy and Skills":  
"Through the Area Partnership you told us your key priority for Tweeddale is:
  - To improve and develop transport networks, connections and options - from, to and within Tweeddale"
9. The Vision for Peebles Masterplan 2017, produced by the Peebles Community Trust following an extensive consultation exercise, identifies a number of issues related to parking in Peebles noting:

"Transport and access – promote environmentally friendly methods of transport, greater connectivity cross the Tweed and support well-managed traffic and parking plans."

And suggesting:

"• Well-integrated and innovative parking areas"

### Recommendations:

10. **The Tweeddale Area Partnership should establish a Sub-Group to review all aspects of parking in Peebles, but with a particular focus on the supply and efficiency of the current off-street parking provision. The Sub-Group should:**
  - a. **Comprise representatives from SBC, Peebles Community Council, Peebles Community Trust, traders in Peebles town centre, other business and community representatives**
  - b. **Consider the current parking provision in Peebles with a particular focus on off-street parking and its relationship to all parking and public transport**

- c. **Develop a draft strategy and plan for off-street parking in Peebles for the next 10 years making use of innovative and practical solutions that work for residents, commuters, visitors and businesses.**
- d. **Present this draft strategy and plan for discussion by the Tweeddale Area Partnership.**
- e. **Submit the draft strategy and plan for consultation by the wider community in Peebles.**
- f. **Following consultation, Tweeddale Area Partnership will agree a final Strategy and implement an agreed Plan.**

**Background:**

11. Tweeddale Area Forum established a Parking Sub Committee in 2013. The remit of this was to
12. After a trial period lasting approximately one year, the current off-street parking charges and regulations were implemented in 2015.
13. Following issues regarding flaws and pressures in the current system raised by members of the public, Councillors Tatler and Small brought the issue to the Tweeddale Area Partnership in May 2019. The view of the TAP was that a detailed proposal should be put to the Partnership supported by evidence that a Review was required.
14. An article was printed by the Peeblesshire News, directing readers to an online poll asking the question "Should there be a review of parking in Peebles?" The results of the poll were that out of the 259 responses 77% replied "Yes".
15. Councillors Tatler and Small are carrying out a survey of the High Street traders in Peebles, and at the time of this paper had spoken to 34 traders. 22 traders (65%) were in favour of a review, 11 would like no change and one was undecided. Many were also concerned about parking in the town centre in general.
16. Peebles Community Council have expressed their support for a review of off-street parking in Peebles and wrote formally to Councillor Tatler to confirm this.
17. Peebles Community Trust have expressed their support for a review of off-street parking in Peebles.

**Councillor Robin Tatler**

**Councillor Eric Small**

**November 2019**