



Date: 15 September 2016

Title: Parking

Purpose of the Report: To provide information to the Partnership Committee in respect of town centre parking.

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1. RECOMMENDATION:-

1.1 To note the report.

2. PURPOSE

2.1 To update the committee on several town centre parking issues namely:

- Feedback on the 2 hour parking trial
- Pay on foot at the Multi Storey car park
- Parking enforcement
- Higher car parking charges

3 Feedback on the 2 hr parking trial

3.1 Initial responses surrounding the 1-3pm free trial in LB has been positive, however one constant element of the feedback received was the request to have the trial based at the end of the day rather than in the middle due to having to potentially return to a vehicle once the free period is over to purchase another Pay & Display (P&D) ticket which is not ideal.

3.2 This feedback has been taken into consideration and from 7th September 2016 the free period will be extended to cover the hours from 1.30 – 6pm, increasing free parking from 2 to 4.5 hours.

3.3 It has not been possible to monitor car park usage during the trial because the Council does not have a back office management system linked to the car park pay and display (P&D) machines. However the new P&D machines being installed will be supported by a management system that will enable monitoring.

4. Pay on Foot (PoF) in Leighton Buzzard

- 4.1 The Multi Storey Car Park Pay on Foot (PoF) technology is coming to the end of its economic life. In view of this it is our intention to replace the existing system at the end of the year. The precise specification of the replacement system is still being determined with consideration being given to the use of ANPR, barriers and pay stations.
- 4.2 The Council is also looking at introducing a similar system in one other car park in Leighton Buzzard although details of this are yet to be confirmed.
- 4.3 It is also our intention to replace all of the existing P&D machines in Council owned car parks across Central Bedfordshire.
- 4.4 It is important to note that it will still be necessary for Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) to patrol car parks, even with PoF systems installed, to ensure compliance for contraventions such as parking within marked bays, use of electric charge point bays etc.

5. Parking Enforcement

- 5.1 We have issued 846 PCN's in Leighton- Buzzard and 256 in Leighton-Linslade from 1st April until 17th July. In total we visited these areas 88 times.
- 5.2 There is always at least one if not two officers in LB/LL enforcing the restrictions which will include Bridge Street/Lake Street. However like all areas across CBC we can only use the resources that we currently have and therefore there may be occasions where certain roads in an area are not visited, which is normally when we are short on staff due to various reasons. This is not limited to the LB/LL area as areas such as Dunstable also have limited enforcement on occasion.
- 5.3 On a positive note we are currently in a recruitment process to employ a further 3 Civil Enforcement Officers, meaning that we would be increasing our team from 8 Civil Enforcement Officers to 11. This means that we will have better coverage across Central Bedfordshire.

6. Parking restrictions

- 6.1 We have a number of parking restriction proposals that have been published which are mainly intended to address non-resident parking near to the train station and town centre. We've received objections, which will be considered at the Delegated Decisions Meeting on Tuesday 13 Sept. Link to report - <http://centralbeds.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=655&MIId=5310&Ver=4>

6.2 We are aware of other roads where there are parking pressures, limited resources mean will not be able to consider those in the current financial year.

7. **Higher car parking charges - what is the gain to LB/LL?**

7.1 The Council has not increased parking charges for some time and the decision to increase the tariffs was made by the Council in November 2015. The income from the increase in charges is supporting an investment in excess of £300k to improve the technology used in our car parks, including LB/LL, to improve the service provided.