

**13 February 2014****Agenda Item:10****REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, HIGHWAYS****LOCAL AUTHORITY PARKING – RESPONSE TO DFT CONSULTATION****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to approve a response to the Department for Transport consultation on local authority parking which was published 6 December 2013.

**Information and Advice**

2. The Department for Transport has invited comments on aspects of local authority parking under a consultation which was published on 6 December 2013 and closes on 14 February 2014.
3. The consultation document invites views on current local authority parking strategies and specifically on options the Government is considering to change the balance of how parking is enforced with the aim of ensuring that parking strategies complement and enhance the attractiveness of high streets and town centres.
4. The consultation states that local authority parking strategies should be fair and reasonable and must not act as an unnecessary disincentive, particularly to shoppers who want to visit town centres. These strategies should be linked to local objectives and circumstances, and take account of planning policies and transport powers. In developing a parking strategy the local authority should consider the needs of the many and various road users in the area, the appropriate scale and type of provision, the balance between short and long term provision and the level of charges.
5. Parking provision is accomplished through a combination of on and off street arrangements and both the County Council and the district / borough councils therefore have a part to play. Parking is a key function of many streets, for which the County Council is the Highway and Traffic Authority. A well-designed arrangement of on-street parking provides convenient access to frontages and can add to the vitality of an area. Conversely, poorly designed parking can create safety problems and reduce the visual quality of a street.

6. Balanced parking provision needs to be accompanied by appropriate enforcement to ensure that the objectives are realised. However, the consultation identifies concerns regarding over-zealous enforcement by some authorities and seeks to implement measures to restrict some enforcement practices.
7. In Nottinghamshire enforcement of on-street and off-street parking is undertaken through the Notts Parking Partnership which includes the County Council and all 7 district and borough councils. It is believed that enforcement practices within the County are not over-zealous and many of the poorer practices cited in the consultation apply to dense urban areas and in particular London and other major cities. Furthermore, many of the proposals included within the consultation are already in operation within Nottinghamshire.
8. The Secretary of State for Transport has announced that parking penalty charge levels will be frozen for the remainder of the current Parliament. In addition under new requirements laid out in the Transparency Code of Practice published by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, all local authorities will be required to make clear all revenues from parking in annual reports and where that revenue goes.
9. The consultation document sets out the background and further details along with specific questions to which responses are sought. The County Council's proposed response is set out at Annex A to this report.

### **Other Options Considered**

10. The response sets out alternative options where these are applicable.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

11. It is important that views from this authority should be made known.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **Implications for Service Users**

The response to this consultation will ensure that the local perspective is taken into account in forming national legislation and policy.

### **Financial Implications**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

1) It is recommended that the response to the consultation (as set out in Annex A) be approved.

**Andrew Warrington  
Service Director (Highways)**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:  
Peter Goode – Traffic Manager Tel: 0115 9774269**

#### **Constitutional Comments ( SHB – 20/04/14)**

12. Committee have the power to decide the recommendation.

#### **Financial Comments (TMR - 22/01/14)**

13. There are no immediate financial implications as a result of this report

#### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

None.

#### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All