

**CABINET**

Wednesday 13 June 2018

**PROPOSED EAST SUFFOLK AREA PARKING PLAN (REP1877)**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. The Department for Transport (DfT) expects every local authority to 'have a clear idea of what its parking policy is and what it intends to achieve by it'. The DfT also expects local authorities to regularly appraise their parking policies and objectives and consult the public as part of their formulation.
2. Local authorities applying for civil parking enforcement (CPE) powers must provide a summary of its parking strategies and policies as part of its submission and the detail and outcome of its parking management review. Suffolk County Council has prepared the high level Suffolk Parking Management Strategy. Each enforcement district needs to have regard to the strategy and set out its own local parking policies and objectives in area parking plans. The East Suffolk Area Parking Plan has been drafted to meet these objectives.
3. In order to meet the timeframe for submitting an application for CPE powers the East Suffolk Area Parking Plan needs to be adopted at the June Cabinet meeting.

Is the report Open or Exempt?	Open
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<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All Wards in the District
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<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Cllr Graham Catchpole Cabinet Member for Operational Partnerships
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## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Local authorities applying for CPE powers need to provide evidence of its parking policies and strategies and the management review that has taken place to ensure they remain relevant and fit for purpose after CPE is granted.
- 1.2 In order to fulfil the requirement the Suffolk Civil Parking Enforcement Working Group (SCPEWG) agreed a two-part process. The County Council will draft the Suffolk Parking Management Strategy (SPMS) as a high level policy document. Each enforcement district will produce its own Area Parking Plan and carry out public consultation on its content. These documents will be submitted to the DfT in support of its application for CPE powers.
- 1.3 Suffolk Public Sector Leaders continue to lobby the Secretary of State for Transport to grant a CPE implementation date of April 2019. The County Council intend submitting the Application in April to give the DfT the maximum amount of time for its administrative process to be completed. The supporting documentation for the application can be submitted at a later date but ideally by October 2018. This will need to include a copy of the adopted East Suffolk Area Parking Plan and a statement on the review process undertaken.
- 1.4 In order to meet these deadlines, Cabinet will need to approve the content of the plan to enable public consultation to take place immediately afterwards.

## **2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Identifying current/previously adopted district parking policies has been difficult as they do not appear to exist. This requires an alternative approach but one which is also in accord with the formation of a single new authority to administer the districts of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney.
- 2.2 The East Suffolk Area Parking Plan (ESAPP) is a completely new parking policy document. It has been drafted with the objective of setting out the broad parking policy objectives that will be adopted and the rationale behind them. It is based on the assumption that CPE powers will be granted to Suffolk and will be administered and operated by East Suffolk under an Agency agreement and Service Level Agreement with the County Council. A copy of the Plan is attached as Appendix A to the report.

## **3 DETAILED CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1 The ESAPP contains eleven broad parking policy statements which aim to set out what the parking plan is and what it is intended to achieve. There are no policies for a specific location or area.
- 3.2 Policy ESAPP1 contains the broad vision for on-street parking – “to provide parking where possible and control parking where necessary”.
- 3.3 Policy ESAPP2 contains the policy objectives for off-street parking provision.
- 3.4 Policy ESAPP3 also relates to car parks and is basically a statement that with a single new authority, off-street parking will be regulated in 2019 onwards under a single traffic order and greater harmonisation of operation will be adopted.
- 3.5 Policy ESAPP4 contains the policy objective to review on-street charges and permits in 2019 as they have not happened for more than a decade.

- 3.6 Policy ESAPP5 contains the policy for implementing on-street parking controls where safety issues are a particular concern using the 'Highway Code Test' procedures.
- 3.7 Policy ESAPP6 contains the policy commitment to public consultation where requests for parking schemes are received and a standardised process for doing so. This is based on industry best practice and is better than what has happened in Suffolk up to now.
- 3.8 Policy ESAPP7 contains a policy about operational hours for parking schemes. This is based on practical experience and takes into account the limited enforcement resources that will be available under CPE.
- 3.9 Policy ESAPP8 contains a policy about the use of advisory disabled bays in residential situations.
- 3.10 Policy ESAPP9 contains a policy about footway parking and where it may be allowed subject to the 'double buggy test'.
- 3.11 Policy ESAPP10 contains a policy about taking an environmentally sensitive approach to the installation of signs and lines. There are not a lot of examples of this approach in Suffolk but it can have a significant impact on minimising clutter and intrusion on the built environment.
- 3.12 Policy ESAPP11 contains a policy about school keep clear markings at pedestrian access to schools.

#### **4 HOW DOES THIS RELATE TO THE EAST SUFFOLK BUSINESS PLAN?**

- 4.1 The East Suffolk Area Parking Plan makes reference to and accords with the objectives of the Business Plan.

#### **5 FINANCIAL AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Following significant testing and review it is estimated that providing a CPE service on current policy terms in East Suffolk will have a negative financial impact in the order of £240k per year across East Suffolk if no new revenue generating opportunities are introduced.

#### **6 CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 Following approval of the draft by Cabinet in June, stakeholder consultation with town and parish councils and other interested individuals and groups will take place over the summer. The results of the consultation and any modifications that may result will be reported to Cabinet in September for final ratification of the ESAPP.

#### **7 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 7.1 The Council is required to have a parking policy and to demonstrate that it has reviewed the content. Evidence needs to be included to support the application to the DfT for the granting of CPE powers for the remaining majority of Suffolk.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That Cabinet to agree the draft content of the ESAPP and to authorise the commencement of a stakeholder consultation process during the summer.
2. That the result of the consultation and recommendations arising from it will be presented to Cabinet at its September meeting for approval.

**APPENDICES**

<b>Appendix A</b>	Draft East Suffolk Area Parking Plan
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