

REGENERATION, CULTURE, ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

7 DECEMBER 2017

MEMBER'S ITEM: PARKING IN GILLINGHAM NORTH & SOUTH WARDS

Report from: Richard Hicks, Director of Regeneration, Culture Environment and Transformation and Deputy Chief Executive

Author: Ruth Du-Lieu , Assistant Director Front Line Services

Summary

This report sets out a response to an issue, raised by Councillor Johnson, to review arrangements for parking in Gillingham North & South Wards where residents are experiencing a lack of parking capacity within controlled parking zones.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

1.1 Under Medway Constitution Overview and Scrutiny rules (Chapter 4, Part 5, Paragraph 9.1) Councillor Johnson has requested that an item on this matter is included on the agenda for this meeting.

2. The Issue

2.1. Councillor Johnson has requested that an item be placed on the agenda and the reasons are set out as follows:

2.2 'I am raising this Member's item with the committee because I and my colleagues in Gillingham North and South wards have considerable concerns about the pressures in our areas on parking, the high levels of referral from residents and the increasing demands. Our concerns focus particularly on Controlled Parking Zones, though the issues extend beyond those areas. We want the council to take a more strategic view of the current issues and adopt a stance which will address the likely rise in pressure on parking in the future.

Our analysis of the issues includes:

- Too many cars for the spaces available

- Too little parking space provided in CPZs for the demand
- More permits issued than spaces available
- No relationship or ratio between number of permits and available space
- No analysis of parking spaces available in CPZs
- CPZs raise expectations of availability of parking
- Large works vehicles parked in residential areas
- Increasing numbers of vehicles per household (for instance, adult working children)
- Increasing population density
- Residents selling permits to non-residents

We are asking for the council to take a strategic approach to manage the current and future pressures. The following options should be included for consideration:

- Incremental addition of extra parking spaces
- Audit the number of permits per household
- Audit available parking spaces in CPZs
- Benchmark the relationship between permits and spaces in other authority areas
- Report on differentiated costs for permits in other authority areas
- Audit the impact of works vehicles on residential parking and consider options for works vehicles
- Audit spare land for temporary parking
- Open public car parks for residents overnight
- Open public car parks for works vehicles overnight
- Consider school and business car parks for overnight parking by residents
- Meeting with hospital management to consider the impact of staff parking in residential areas
- Revisit planning conditions to ensure sufficient parking in all new developments
- Community forums for discussion of options and consideration of residents' views

3 Director's comments

- 3.1 Parking capacity pressures within the residential roads of Medway are following the national trend. In the last 20 years, car ownership has risen by 10 million throughout the UK. This is clearly creating a problem in urban areas where many older roads are narrow with no opportunity to park off street. This is certainly the case in Gillingham North and South Wards.
- 3.2 Cllr Johnson has made many suggestions to address the parking capacity issues highlighted. To consider these it is suggested that a meeting be arranged to include the Chairman Cllr Clarke, Vice Chairman Cllr Bhutia, Cllr

Johnson, Cllr Stamp, the Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services Cllr Filmer and the Assistant Director Front Line Services Ruth Du-Lieu.

- 3.3 In preparation for this meeting, information will be pulled together on permit numbers, known issues, opportunities and challenges. Work has been ongoing to address parking capacity within Gillingham North and South Wards and a summary of these efforts will be provided to update the Members of the group.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 The Committee is asked to note this report and the suggestion that a meeting take place comprising the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Councillors Stamp and Johnson, along with the Portfolio for Front Line Services and the Assistant Director Front Line Services to discuss Councillor Johnson's suggestions and possible ways forward for future consideration.

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Appendices

None

Background Papers

None