

Meeting: Council

Date: Wednesday 18 July 2012

Subject: Eastbourne parking strategy

Report of: Councillor Steve Wallis on behalf of the Cabinet

The Council is asked to consider the minute and resolution of the Cabinet meeting held on 11 July 2012.

Further copies of the report to Cabinet are available on request – please see end of this report. A copy may be seen on the Council's website at:
<http://www.eastbourne.gov.uk/council/meetings/cabinet/>

The Council is recommended to:-

Approve the Eastbourne parking strategy incorporating the recommended changes as set out and explained in appendices 1 and 2 to the report to Cabinet and to note that in approving the strategy, the authority recognises the need for controlled parking but remains opposed to paid on-street parking in Eastbourne.

***31 Eastbourne parking strategy** (Cabinet, 8 February 2012, page no. 270, minute no. 98, 2011/12 minutes).

- 31.1 Councillor Patrick Warner addressed the Cabinet indicating concern that the expansion of the Arndale Centre could lead to additional congestion from vehicles queuing to access the centre's car park and whether the proposals in the strategy adequately addressed this issue. The senior head commented that the proposed establishment of a quality parking partnership (QPP) had the prime objective of unifying the management of off-street and on-street parking management and enforcement, one feature on which should be the introduction of 'real time' parking information displayed for the benefit of motorists that would direct drivers to available parking spaces.
- 31.2 Cabinet considered the report of the Senior Head of Development and Environment further to Cabinet authorising public/stakeholder consultation on the draft parking strategy on 8 February 2012 (see previous minute for summary of background to the strategy). This report considered the representations received and proposed a response and resulting amendments where appropriate. The senior head also commented that the Planning Committee had also received the draft

strategy for comment at their meeting on 10 July 2012, however, no specific recommendations were made by the committee.

31.3 A parking strategy was considered to be a key element of an integrated transport system and the strategy aimed to ensure:

- That Eastbourne town centre was easily accessed by all modes of travel and that all residents and visitors were provided with an attractive range of options for travel to and within the area.
- That on and off-street parking was managed efficiently and cohesively.
- That parking facilities were well managed, safe and attractive.
- That the quality of off-street parking in Eastbourne was improved.
- That comprehensive information on transport and parking in Eastbourne was made available in partnership with relevant stakeholders.
- That car parking did not overly impact on the setting and place shaping of the town centre.
- That it assisted in the delivery of the objectives for the regeneration of Eastbourne town centre and the wider community aspirations for the borough.

31.4 A 12-week consultation had been held between 1 March and 25 May 2012. Details were given in the report and included workshop sessions with stakeholders and the Town Centre Neighbourhood Panel. Representations were received from Eastbourne and District Chamber of Commerce; Eastbourne Hospitality Association (EHA); the Performance Retail Limited Partnership (represented by Turley Associates); and Stagecoach. These were summarised in the report and detailed in appendix 2 to the report.

31.5 Following an analysis of the representations received, it was proposed to make the following principal changes to the strategy:

- Additional wording to include reference to paragraphs 39-41 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). This provided advice to local planning authorities on setting local parking standards. It required local authorities to seek to improve the quality, convenience, safety and security of parking in town centre, and to ensure that parking charges did not undermine the vitality of town centres; and
- Additional wording to provide an explanation on the formation of the quality parking partnership (QPP) and recognition of the monitoring criteria, which could be used to assess the effectiveness of the delivery plan, which formed part of the parking strategy. The strategy was already clear that the QPP would particularly address the issue of charging to park.

The revised strategy was set out in appendix 1 to the report.

*31.6 **Resolved (budget and policy framework):** That full Council be asked to approve the Eastbourne parking strategy incorporating the recommended changes as set out and explained in appendices 1 and 2 to the report and to note that in approving the strategy, the administration

recognises the need for controlled parking but remains opposed to paid on-street parking in Eastbourne.

For a copy of the report please contact Local Democracy at 1 Grove Road, Eastbourne, BN21 4TW. Tel. (01323) 415022 or 415021.
E-mail: localdemocracy@eastbourne.gov.uk

For further information please contact: Lisa Rawlinson (Principal Implementation Officer), 1 Grove Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN21 4TW
Tel no: (01323) 415250
E-mail: lisa.rawlinson@eastbourne.gov.uk

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