

# ***Information/Discussion Paper***

**Social and Community O&S - 5 September 2011**

## **Parking Strategy - equality impact assessment of proposals**

This note contains the information to keep Members informed of matters relating to the work of the Committee, but where no decisions from Members are needed

### **1. Why has this come to scrutiny?**

- 1.1** Parking policies and their enforcement are complex. They can confuse the public if they are not explained clearly. People often do not understand why we need parking restrictions or how they help to keep traffic moving and roads safe. Consultation and communication are the foundation of a fair and effective parking policy. They help to ensure that the public understands and respects the need for enforcement. Consultation should be an ongoing process that takes place whenever an authority proposes major changes and at regular intervals after that.
- 1.2** Operational guidance to local authorities on Parking Policy and Enforcement expects local authorities considering major changes to their parking policies to consult fully with stakeholders. As a minimum, local authorities should consult the following groups:
- those involved in the implementation and operation of parking, including the police, neighbouring local authorities, the DVLA and the Traffic Enforcement Centre;
  - wider stakeholders with an interest in parking, including businesses, motoring groups and representative organisations; and
  - those who will be affected, including residents, motorists and the general public.
- Authorities should also include socially excluded groups.

### **2. Summary of the Issue**

- 2.1** The County Council's (GCC) parking strategy is set in the Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP3), recently published and available on GCC's web site. The Cheltenham Parking Board, a joint body with both GCC and CBC member and senior officer representation, have had tabled a discussion paper prepared by CBC "Towards a Cheltenham Parking Strategy", to be included in discussion as forming in part the localised Cheltenham parking strategy into the broader County wide parking framework.
- 2.2** As part of the need for broader consultation, Cheltenham Borough Council (CBC) with support of GCC will be seeking representations from the community in the form of consultative groups who will prepare recommendations for the localised parking strategy for Cheltenham.

- 2.3** The recommendations will be a Cheltenham specific interpretation of the County Parking Policy and will also include areas not covered by LTP 3 such as neighbourhood management, associated street-scape, accessibility issues and mobility and disability considerations.
- 2.4** Guidance sets out that authorities should design their parking policies with particular regard to:
- managing the traffic network to ensure expeditious movement of traffic, (including pedestrians and cyclists), as required under the TMA (Traffic Management Act) Network Management Duty:
  - improving road safety;
  - improving the local environment;
  - improving the quality and accessibility of public transport;
  - meeting the needs of disabled people, some of whom will be unable to use public transport systems and depend entirely on the use of a car; and
  - managing and reconciling the competing demands for kerb space of:
    - residents;
    - shops;
    - businesses;
    - visitors, especially where there are many tourist attractions and hotels;
    - pedestrians;
    - delivery vehicles;
    - buses, taxis, private hire vehicles and coaches;
    - cars;
    - bicycles; and
- motorcycles

### **3. Summary of evidence/information**

- 3.1** As reference and background information, The Gloucestershire Third local Transport Plan (LTP3) Draft Parking and Demand Management Strategy together with the Discussion paper towards a Cheltenham Parking Strategy has been included for reference.

### **4. Next Steps - possible next steps for the committee to consider eg potential witnesses, further report, site visit etc.**

- 4.1** It has been agreed with GCC officer representatives to organise a workshop with representation from GCC, CBC and Gloucestershire Highways (GH), the aim being to establish a working group that also considers the needs of the community where mobility and disability is of concern and that these stakeholders are considered in the broader context of street space management, parking, walking, buses, taxis etc. So that future engagements and consultation on parking schemes can benefit from an agreed understanding on the aims of developing an holistic approach to parking in Cheltenham.
- 4.2** The working group having representatives from the community and other key stakeholders is consistent with the aims as set out within the Traffic Management Act 2004 and reinforced by statutory guidance, this will greatly assist in formulating a localised and workable Cheltenham Parking Strategy.

- 4.3** Discussions have taken place with Cllr. Driver, drawing upon her experience in dealing with stakeholders within Cheltenham who have experience and understanding of the needs of mobility and disability considerations. With guidance and support from Cllr Driver representations are currently being sought to establish a working group that can provide advice and guidance in formulating a quality equality impact assessment of proposals to be put forward in developing the Cheltenham Parking Strategy.
- 4.4** One possible next step for the committee to consider could be the inclusion of a representative on the Cheltenham Parking Strategy Member working group, or receive updates from the soon to be formed mobility and disability working group.

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<b>Appendices</b>	1. Gloucestershire Third Local Transport Plan (LTP3) Draft Parking and Demand Management Strategy (GCC).  2. Towards a Cheltenham Parking Strategy (CBC)
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