

Independent Parking Surveys for Birchington, Westbrook and Westgate-on-Sea - Revised On-Street Schemes

12 September 2019	Joint Transportation Board
Report Author	Trevor Kennett, Head of Operational Services
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Ashbee, Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Operational Services
Status	for Consideration
Classification:	Unrestricted
Key Decision	No
Ward:	Birchington North, Westgate & Westbrook

Executive Summary:

This report outlines revised on-street parking restriction proposals following an Independent parking survey for Minnis Bay, Westbrook and Westgate-on-sea.

Recommendation(s):

To advise Cabinet on the Board's view about following the legal process and go out to public consultation for implementation of the revised on-street parking restriction schemes.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money	<p>Parking and waiting restrictions are funded, managed and enforced by Thanet District Council using the decriminalisation budget. Any additional income from new on-street parking schemes will be paid into the decriminalisation budget and any set up costs will be taken from this account. This budget is only used for parking, transportation and travel schemes.</p> <p>No additional staffing resources are proposed for the revised scheme as the areas are currently covered within our existing patrols. If additional staff are required they will be funded from the decriminalisation budget.</p> <p>There would be no financial implications arising directly from this report directly to the Council budgets.</p>
Legal	There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.
Corporate	New on-street parking schemes will bring in new income which could be used to invest in further traffic management schemes and helping maintain our current parking service. These schemes fit in with the Council's corporate priorities and values of delivering value for money and promoting inward investment.

Equalities Act 2010 & Public Sector Equality Duty	<p>Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to the aims of Duty at the time the decision is taken. The aims of the Duty are: (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it, and (iii) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.</p> <p>Protected characteristics: age, gender, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy & maternity. Only aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage & civil partnership.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="432 689 1402 954"> <tr> <td colspan="2">Please indicate which aim is relevant to the report.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act,</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it</td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Some proposals will improve sightlines for drivers and pedestrians. Additionally, some waiting restrictions on corners and at junctions will discourage inconsiderate parking and improve pedestrian access to footways which can cause particular difficulties for those with restricted mobility, wheelchair users and parents with pushchairs or prams. This will be of benefit to both able bodied and disabled road users.</p> <p>The proposals allows for disabled badge holders to park within any pay and display bays by using their blue badge meeting the needs of persons with a protected characteristic.</p> <p>If any changes are made to the current legislation, parking areas or representations are received with a relevance to the Public Sector Equality Duty we will review our impact assessment. Officers will review consultation feedback for any comments relevant to the Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty.</p>	Please indicate which aim is relevant to the report.		Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act,		Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it	✓	Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.	
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CORPORATE PRIORITIES (tick those relevant) ✓	
A clean and welcoming Environment	
Promoting inward investment and job creation	✓
Supporting neighbourhoods	✓

CORPORATE VALUES (tick those relevant) ✓	
Delivering value for money	✓
Supporting the Workforce	
Promoting open communications	

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 A consultation was carried out from Wednesday 2 May to Tuesday 29 May 2018 inviting residents and local businesses to make representation and raise any objection to parking scheme proposals for the Parade, Minnis Bay Birchington, Cuthbert Road, St Mildred's Road, Station Road, Westgate-on Sea. As a result of feedback received, Cabinet decided to allow more time to analyse the challenges and to explore a range of potential solutions to resolve issues around congestion, lack of turn-over of spaces and pedestrian safety, which these proposals intended to address. Canterbury Road and Royal Crescent in Westbrook were also going to be included within this wider analysis.
- 1.2 On the 18 June 2018 Alpha Parking Limited, an Independent parking consultancy were commissioned to undertake parking surveys of the affected roads in Minnis Bay, Westbrook and Westgate-on-sea to gain further insight into the situation and proposed schemes. The full physical location surveys were undertaken on Friday 13 and Saturday 14 July 2018. (Appendix 1)
- 1.3 The final parking survey report was received from Alpha Parking Limited at the end of November 2018.

2.0 Independent Parking Survey Report

- 2.1 The report comes to a number of conclusions following the physical parking surveys, which are:
- 2.2 **Minnis Bay**, the occupancy levels in The Parade exceeded 50% for several hours of the day on Saturday, with peak levels of about 60% at lunchtime period. Lower levels were recorded on the Friday, a normal working day outside the school holidays. The majority of users on this site were short-stay visitors.
- 2.3 However, two days of survey information gathered shortly before the start of the school holidays can, at best, only give a partial indication of the overall situation. In particular, they do not reflect the effects of the peak holiday season and the school holidays themselves.
- 2.4 Making allowance for these factors, there is little doubt that there would be a significant increase in the demand for parking at Minnis Bay, possibly to levels approaching full capacity.
- 2.5 The proposed charges at Minnis Bay, charges would apply from 10am to 6pm on all days between 1 April and 31 October. There is a range of possible options for reducing the impact of these charges, if that is felt appropriate. These could include:-
- reducing the level of charges
 - reducing the hours of operation of the charges
 - reducing the days of operation of the charges
 - reducing the months of operation of the charges
 - keeping free parking in some parts of The Parade.
- 2.6 **Westbrook**, Canterbury Road showed occupancy levels of up to 51% on both survey days. There is a clear influx of parking into the road during the day and this may include an element of vehicles not adhering to the existing 1 hour limit, as reported by

Thanet District Council officers during discussions. Royal Crescent had higher occupancy levels of up to 78%, but is not time-limited and probably already has parked vehicles displaced by the time limit in Canterbury Road.

2.7 **Westgate**, there is little or no spare capacity during the daytime in Cuthbert Road, Station Road and St Mildred's Road. The attraction of convenient parking outside the commercial premises in these roads should help to counter any tendency for parked vehicles to be displaced to nearby residential roads if charges were introduced.

2.8 Both Westbrook and Westgate locations capacity will increase significantly during the peak season.

3.0 Revised schemes

3.1 Following the independent parking surveys and taking into account the previous public consultation it is proposed to revise the previous parking scheme proposals.

3.1.1 The rationale for these revisions is as follows:

Minnis Bay - To reduce the parking costs to reflect the new lower fees and charges for off-street parking.

Westbrook - To continue with the previously proposed scheme.

Westgate - To remove Cuthbert Road, St Mildreds Road from the scheme as the survey shows that restrictions are not required at this time.

3.2 The previous scheme proposals considered by Cabinet were;

Minnis Bay - The Parade - Pay and Display from 10am to 6pm every day from 1st April to 31st October Inclusive. At a charge of £2.00 per hour.

Westbrook - Canterbury Road and Royal Crescent - Change the time limited bays to pay and display parking places. At a charge in line with other on street short stay pay and display.

Westgate - Cuthbert Road, St Mildreds Road and Station Road - Change the time limited bays to pay and display parking places. At a charge in line with other on street short stay pay and display.

- 3.3 It is proposed that the following identified on-street locations be either changed to pay and display/resident schemes or will not be progressed.

New Proposals

Location	Roads/Location Included	Hourly charge	Operation Period
Minnis Bay, Birchington	The Parade Seasonal only charges.	No change to existing scheme. The Parade will remain free from parking restrictions and charges.	n/a
Westbrook, Margate	Canterbury Road, Royal Crescent,	Pay & Display - As per current fees and charges Add to Margate West resident parking scheme and time limited bays to 1 hour.	Daily 0900-1800
Westgate Central, Westgate	Station Road only	Pay & Display - As per current fees and charges	Daily 0900-1800

- 3.4 All of the above revised schemes will be subject to further statutory public consultation and following this consultation process the Council will further consider the proposals, which include not implementing them, charging as above per hour for these parking areas or in line with the fees and charges agreed for that financial year.

Contact Officer:	Trevor Kennett, Head of Operational Services
Reporting to:	Gavin Waite, Director of Operational & Commercial Services

Annex List

Appendix 1	Independent Parking Survey report
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Corporate Consultation

Finance	Chris Blundell Head of Financial & Procurement Services, Deputy S151 Officer
Legal	Sophia Nartey, Interim Head of Legal Services