

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	15 JANUARY 2015	AGENDA ITEM:	13
TITLE:	ANNUAL PARKING REPORT 2013-2014		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	COUNCILLOR T PAGE	PORTFOLIO:	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
SERVICE:	PARKING SERVICES	WARDS:	BOROUGHWIDE
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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The Traffic Management Act 2004 states that each local authority with Civil Parking Enforcement should publish an Annual Report about their enforcement activities covering financial and statistical data. The previous annual reports were reported at Cabinet in 2011, the Traffic Management Advisory Panel in January 2013 and the Traffic Management Sub-Committee in November 2013.

1.2 Appendix 1 Parking Services Annual Report 2013-2014

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

2.1 That Members note the contents of this report and that the annual reports for 2008-2013 are available on the Council's website.

2.2 That Members note the annual report for 2013-2014 is intended to be published in January 2015.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

3.1 The Council is a Civil Enforcement Authority under the Traffic Management Act 2004 and is therefore required to produce an annual report.

4. THE PROPOSAL

4.1 Reading Borough Council took up statutory powers under the Road Traffic Act 1991 (as amended) in 2000 to become a Special Parking Area (SPA) taking over parking enforcement from the Police. In April 2008 every Local Authority with SPA powers became a Civil Enforcement Area (CEA) under the Traffic Management Act 2004 (TMA). One of the requirements of the TMA is that each Local Authority submits an Annual Parking Report to the Department for Transport (DfT) each year. The Secretary of State's Statutory Guidance to Local Authorities on the Civil Enforcement of Parking Contraventions sets out the minimum information to be included in the Annual Parking Report.

- 4.2 The Statutory Guidance requires that as a minimum the Local Authority must include financial details relating to total income and expenditure on the parking account and statistical information relating to the number of Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) issued, paid, cancelled and challenged.
- 4.3 The annual report for 2013-2014 includes the Statutory Guidance requirements and also includes information for Residents Parking Permits, Bus Lane Enforcement, Blue Badge Issues, Car Parks, Pay and Display and Freedom of Information requests.
- 4.4 The number of Bus Lane Penalty Charge Notices issued has increased by 30% this year compared with the previous year. This is due to the introduction of five new bus lanes around the Reading Railway Station and the upgrade to digital enforcement of five existing bus lanes. The new bus lanes around the station were introduced to protect access and prioritise public transport. The Council issued over 3,700 warning notices in the three weeks prior to enforcement commencing in August 2013. In the eight month period that the Council enforced the Bus lanes (in 2013/2014), there were 9,740 PCNs issued in those particular bus lanes. The warning period therefore allowed those who regularly use this area to adjust to the changes around the Station prior to enforcement.
- 4.5 This meant that the income increased in the last financial year compared to the previous year. However, the overall compliance for bus lane restrictions is improving as the Council has seen a reduction (8%) in the number of PCNs issued this year, which will be included in the next annual report.
- 4.6 The number of Parking Penalty Charge Notices issued in 2013/2014 was 3% lower than the previous year. This shows improved compliance of the parking restrictions in Reading.
- 4.7 The Cabinet report in January 2011 stated future reports were to be published on the Council's website. The annual parking reports for 2008-2009, 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 are available through the Council's website at: <http://beta.reading.gov.uk/article/2854/Where-can-I-read-the-Councils-annual-parking-reports>
- 4.8 The annual report for 2013-2014 is intended to be published in January 2015.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

- 5.1 To promote equality, social inclusion and a safe and healthy environment for all.

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

- 6.1 The Annual Parking Report will have wider accessibility by being published on the Council's website.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The Local Authority is required to produce an Annual Parking Report under the Traffic Management Act 2004.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 As reported in the Annual Report.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 Cabinet Report - Annual Parking Report dated 17th January 2011

9.2 Traffic Management Advisory Panel - Annual Parking Report dated 17th January 2013

9.3 Traffic Management Sub-Committee - Annual Parking Services report 5th November 2013

10. APPENDICES

10.1 Appendix 1 - Annual Parking Services Report 2013-2014