

## READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	15 JANUARY 2015	AGENDA ITEM:	14
TITLE:	UNIVERSITY & HOSPITAL AREA: ON-STREET PAY AND DISPLAY AND RESIDENTS' PARKING SCOPING UPDATE		
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#### 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 To report to the Sub-Committee a future proposal to introduce additional areas of on-street pay and display in and around the Hospital and University area, in the context of managing the demand for this type of parking and in light of recently received planning application from the Royal Berkshire Hospital and an anticipated planning proposal from the University, both of which have changes to their own parking provision.

#### 2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee notes the report and endorses the next steps outlined in 4.7 to be undertaken by officers to develop detailed pay and display scheme and Resident's Parking proposals for future statutory advertising.

#### 3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 The proposals are in line with current Transport and Planning Policy.

#### 4. THE PROPOSAL

- 4.1 On-street pay and display restrictions enable more efficient enforcement of on-street parking restrictions, resulting in less abuse and greater turnover of spaces, whilst still accommodating residents parking where permit zones currently exist.

- 4.2 Historically the roads around the Hospital and the University have been an area where on-street parking has come under significant pressure. This area continues to be affected by ongoing high demand for on-street parking. In 2012 an informal consultation was undertaken within the neighbourhood to establish whether a combined pay and display and Residents' Parking (RP) scheme would assist in dealing with this.
- 4.3 A planning application has recently been submitted by the Royal Berkshire Hospital for a new Pre-Operative Assessment and 24 bed ward to be built on the site of the current Addington Road car park, with consequential amendments to the provision of surface car parking and to the management of the multi storey car park. There are clearly transport implications (as well as planning implications) that will need to be considered in greater detail as part of the planning application process given the wide catchment area for patients that will inevitably drive to access the RBH facilities. From a transportation perspective we would need to be satisfied that any implications were suitably managed and mitigated. This would likely include introducing pay and display in order to manage the overall on street parking provision, whilst taking into consideration the needs of local residents.
- 4.4 The Hospital Trust have stated that they will promote staff travel to work by sustainable means and will consider how additional parking can be accommodated both on and off site. They are also considering how hospital services may be provided at other sites across the area, including potentially in Bracknell and Newbury.
- 4.5 In addition we anticipate receiving a planning application from the University relating to their on campus parking provision and this will also need to be considered in relation to the relevant transport and planning policies.
- 4.6 In the context of flexibility of on-street parking provision, several areas of pay and display bays have been introduced in and around central Reading. The purpose of such restrictions is to encourage turnover of spaces and provide further flexibility to accommodate parking for blue badge holders who are also able to use these bays at no charge in accordance with the national Blue Badge Scheme. Some of the existing pay and display bays are also already shared with Residents Parking bays in order to balance the needs of local residents, alongside visitors.
- 4.7 A previous report to the then Traffic Management Advisory Panel in June 2012, already sought and had ratified by Cabinet, the authority to advertise the statutory Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) that would have then enabled the formal consultation to be undertaken and then consider any objections. This aspect was not progressed as it was considered premature in the wider Eastern Area study context. Having now completed a large number of improvements along the Eastern corridor which support more active travel, as well as improvements for bus passengers, upgrading of traffic signals and low energy, low carbon street lighting upgrades as part of the Local Sustainable Transport Fund programme, it is considered appropriate for officers to develop the detailed pay and display scheme and Resident Parking proposals that will be reported back to a future meeting of this Committee.

4.8 The following roads have been identified as having potential for future pay and display and Resident Parking in the Hospital and University areas:

- Redlands Road (east & west sides)
- Addington Road (north & south sides)
- Erleigh Road (north & south sides)
- Morgan Road (east & west sides)
- Kendrick Road
- Alexandra Road
- Allcroft Road
- Elmhurst Road
- Upper Redlands Road

4.9 The proposed restrictions to be advertised would need to consider the hours of operation of a scheme and the charging tariff, which would likely be different to the existing town centre pay and display hours and tariffs. The tariff structure and payment scales would also consider those in place at the Hospital and University, and there is a clear need for each of those organisations to maintain dialogue with the Council over any future changes. With regard to the time period for parking, it would be possible to consult on a scheme that did not necessarily limit the maximum stay, for example in order to retain the ability for people to park for longer periods should they have the need to do so when visiting the Hospital, whilst still balancing this with the objective to encourage greater turnover of on-street parking. The timing of restrictions is subject to change pending a future statutory consultation period.

## **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 Future statutory consultation will be carried out in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.

## **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 Any proposals for waiting restrictions are advertised under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

## **8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

8.1 In addition to the Human Rights Act 1998 the Council is required to comply with the Equalities Act 2010. Section 149 of the Equalities Act 2010 requires the Council to have due regard to the need to:-

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;

- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

8.2 The Council has carried out an equality impact assessment scoping exercise, and considers that the proposals do not have a direct impact on any groups with protected characteristics.

## **9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 The project development will be funded by existing Transport budgets.

## **10. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

10.1 Traffic Management Advisory Panel, June 2012.

10.2 Policy Committee, September 2014.

