

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	3 NOVEMBER 2015	AGENDA ITEM:	12
TITLE:	UNIVERSITY & HOSPITAL AREA STUDY - UPDATE		
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Sub-Committee on the latest position with regard to the identification of transport issues and potential solutions in the residential areas around the University of Reading and Royal Berkshire Hospital.
- 1.2 A consultation was undertaken in May 2012 on the principle of prioritising parking for local residents through introducing a Residents' Parking Scheme, to include elements of pay and display parking, alongside complementary transport measures in the local area. The scheme was proposed to help address the issues previously identified by residents through the study.
- 1.3 Due to the mixed nature of responses received through the consultation, the study Steering Group took the decision not to proceed with the proposed parking scheme at that time. It was agreed that the study would continue working closely with key stakeholders, including the University and Hospital, to reassess the feasibility of introducing the complementary transport schemes as outlined in the consultation and as supported through feedback received from residents.

- 1.4 This work has continued over the past few years, and alongside detailed discussions with key stakeholders, a second set of proposals has recently been completed. A local consultation has since taken place in September and October 2015 by the Redlands Ward Councillors on the latest plans, and this report details the results of the consultation to date, and the proposed next steps.

## 2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee note the report.
- 2.2 That the review of the consultation continues, alongside continuing discussions with the Emergency Services and a further detailed report be submitted to the January 2016 meeting of this Sub-Committee.

## 3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 To secure the most effective use of resources in the delivery of high quality, best value public service.

## 4. THE PROPOSAL

- 4.1 Reading's transport strategy is contained within the LTP 2011-2026, which reviews challenges and opportunities throughout Reading and proposes Local Action Plans to be developed in neighbourhoods to address these challenges. These Action Plan Areas are based on a division of the urban area identified in the LTP 2006-2011, and represent continuity in implementing multi-targeted transport measures throughout Reading.
- 4.2 The LTP's vision is based on the vision for Reading set out in the Sustainable Communities Strategy by the Local Strategic Partnership. The vision is supported by a number of overarching objectives and enabling policies, which are in turn supported by detailed policies and objectives on a variety of themes, from cycling and parking to road safety and travel information. The policies and objectives for each theme are designed to help identify actions to address issues in local neighbourhoods.
- 4.3 In line with the LTP, a consultation was undertaken in May 2012 on the principle of prioritising parking in the Hospital and University area for local residents through introducing a Residents' Parking Scheme, to include elements of pay and display parking, alongside complementary transport measures in the local area. The scheme was proposed to help address the issues previously identified by residents through the study.
- 4.4 Due to the mixed nature of responses received through the consultation, the study Steering Group took the decision not to proceed with the proposed parking scheme at that time. It was agreed to continue with the study and focus on continuing to work closely with key stakeholders,

including the University and Hospital, to reassess the feasibility of introducing the complementary transport schemes as outlined in the consultation and as supported through feedback received from residents.

- 4.5 This work has continued over the past few years, and recently, a second set of proposals were prepared by the Council and presented for consultation by the Redlands Ward Councillors.
- 4.6 The latest proposals are shown on Appendix 1 and consisted of the following:-
1. Resident Permit (RP) parking is proposed between 8am to 5.30pm, Monday to Friday, to protect parking for residents in residential streets where the majority of households do not have off-street parking.
  2. Pay & Display (P&D) limited hours parking is proposed between 8am to 5.30pm, Monday to Friday, in the areas of highest demand near the Royal Berks Hospital and the University of Reading.
  3. Shared use P&D / RP parking where the majority of households do have off-street parking allowing residents' permit holders to park all day.
  4. P&D parking charges are proposed to be in line with current charges for the RBH multi-storey car park.
  5. No changes are proposed to the current arrangements on roads with existing RP schemes.
  6. It is proposed to incorporate all roads with RP schemes between Redlands Road and Eastern Avenue (but not including Eastern Avenue) into a wider 15R zone.
  7. Limited free waiting parking provision on Erleigh Road (between Alexander Road and Eastern Ave) to enable parking for the local shops.
  8. The provision of on-street parking in the scheme area has been maximised in accordance with highway rules and the requirements of the emergency services.
- 4.7 Redlands Ward Councillors promoted the latest set of proposals via a local leaflet delivered to all properties in the study area, information on the Redlands Councillors website, and a local exhibition took place at St Lukes Church Hall on Monday 28 September 2015 between 5:00pm to 7:00pm supported by Council Transport Officers.
- 4.8 The proposed residents parking schemes in Foxhill Road, Cardigan Road, Cardigan Gardens, Donnington Road, Donnington Gardens, Blenheim Road, Blenheim Gardens, and Hatherley Road are intended as parking protection for residents due to the likelihood of displacement from the Hospital and University areas where a change in restriction is proposed.
- 4.9 These roads are narrow, and whilst parking is currently unrestricted and commonly seen on both sides of the road, formalising parking will include the requirement to maintain access for emergency services and larger vehicles such as refuse vehicles at all times. This will change the way in

which vehicles can park and in some cases parking can only be provided on one side of the road due to the available road space.

- 4.10 The majority of feedback from residents at the local exhibition was focused on the reduction in parking spaces in the areas as explained in paragraph 4.8 above. Therefore, officers are in the process of reviewing these proposals in liaison with key stakeholders such as the Emergency Services to review the highway design requirements alongside access to each road.
- 4.11 At this stage, as the review of the proposals is not complete, it is proposed to submit a further report to the January 2016 meeting of this Sub-Committee with the outcome of the review and a the next steps.

## **5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS**

5.1 The delivery of the projects outlined in this report help to deliver the following Corporate Plan Service Priorities:

- Keeping the town clean, safe, green and active.
- Providing infrastructure to support the economy.

## **6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION**

6.1 The projects have and will continue to be communicated to the local community through local exhibitions and Council meetings.

## **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 None at this stage.

## **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 will carry out an equality impact assessment scoping exercise once the detail of the proposals is confirmed.

**9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 None relating to this report.

**10. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

10.1 Traffic Management Sub-Committee reports.