

To: Ashford Joint Transportation Board
By: ABC Parking, Highways and Transportation
Date: 12th December 2017
Subject: Process for introduction of parking management schemes
Classification: Information and comment

Summary:

This report introduces an outline draft policy for use when receiving requests for Parking Management schemes, which compliments the process for traffic management requests supported by the board in June 2015. The report offers members of the Joint Transportation Board the opportunity to consider the proposal.

1. Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider a standardised policy upon receiving requests for parking management schemes across the borough. For example;

- Controlled parking zones
- Restricted parking zones
- Residents permit schemes

2. The necessity

2.1 Often, it is perceived that to introduce a parking management scheme will resolve localised parking issues. However there are factors to take into account that can be overlooked. These may include;

- Displacement of vehicles
- Creation of parking problems in adjoining areas
- Insufficient road space for a scheme
- Perceived local support for a scheme
- Impact on traffic flows
- Level of vehicle ownership within households
- Associated costs to residents
- Back office administration

2.2 The JTB report of 9th June 2015 introduced a process for traffic management requests, which is still current and proven to work when handling and deciding such requests.

2.3 The proposals build on the process agreed by JTB in 2015 and will help residents and businesses through the process of requesting parking schemes.

2.4 Legislation provided under LATOR 1996 (Local authorities Traffic Orders Regulations) governs the introduction of any parking scheme.

2.5 Introducing a policy will offer a consistent approach. However, each application will be considered on its own merits. Where it is necessary for the Council to depart substantially from its policy, clear and compelling reasons will be given for so doing.

3. The Policy

3.1 The outline policy introduces a systematic approach taking into account the factors that require consideration. These include;

- Handling of the initial enquiry.
- Obtaining Member support and encouragement of a petition showing initial wider public support.
- Obtaining 'support in principle' from the Highway Authority (Kent County Council).
- Initial officer investigations to ascertain scope of any potential scheme and costs.
- Public survey to obtain wider public desire for scheme with outcome reported to JTB.
- Draft traffic order and options to formal public consultation and report to JTB for support.
- Sealing of traffic regulation order and creation of the scheme.

4. Recommendations

4.1 Officers seek comment from members of the Board.

4.2 Officers will seek the Board's endorsement of this process at the meeting of JTB in March 2018.