

Ashford Borough Council - Decisions taken by the Cabinet on 14th March 2019

Minute No	Topic	Decision
373	Proposed Multi-Storey Car Park – Station Road, Ashford	<p>The report sought approval for the development and construction of a new Multi-Storey Car Park on the site currently occupied by the existing surface level car park on Station Road, Ashford. The aim of the proposal was to provide a high quality, commercially viable car parking facility that supported the aspirational and expected growth of the town centre, complementing the steadily rising growth in the local economy and demand for parking.</p> <p>In response to questions the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Wellbeing advised that potential charging regimes were yet to be determined, but acknowledged the income was important in terms of the overall viability of the project. Concern over the length of the potential payback period was raised. The Portfolio Holder for Finance and IT said the projections in the paper were also considered a ‘worst case scenario’ and that earlier payback was possible. This development should also be regarded as enabling development. It was stated that development of the car park was planned to be future proof in terms of electric charging points, use of smart technology (including ANPR) and a more adaptable structure (i.e. for alternative use over time).</p> <p>Resolved:</p> <p>That</p> <p>(i) the construction of a new multi-storey car park of circa 500 spaces on the site of the existing surface car park on Station Road, Ashford, be approved in principle, subject to a planning application being made and approved in due course.</p> <p>(ii) the capital resources expended on the project be funded from future income over the life of the asset.</p>

(iii) authority be delegated to the Director of Law & Governance, in consultation with the Head of Community Safety and Wellbeing, Head of Corporate Property and Projects and Director of Finance and Economy, in consultation with their respective Portfolio Holders, to effect and complete all necessary steps for the development and construction of the new multi-storey car park at Station Road, Ashford. This to include approval of the detailed design of the proposed scheme, associated professional appointments, preparation of detailed designs and submission of planning permission prior to procuring the works.

(iv) further update reports be received as necessary.

Recommended:

That the Council approve the necessary capital funds to deliver the multi-storey car park in accordance with the estimate provided. Such funds to be met from reserves and borrowing the extent of which is to be determined by the Director of Finance and Economy in conjunction with the Chief Executive.