

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT TO THE
JOINT PARKING COMMITTEE

20th January 2014

1. **REPORT TITLE** Department for Transport – Consultation on Local Authority Parking
- Submitted by:** Engineering Manager – Graham Williams
- Portfolio:** Environment and Recycling
- Ward(s) affected:** All

Purpose of the Report

To inform and seek views of members regarding a consultation document from the Department for Transport concerning local authority parking.

Recommendations

1. That members approve the report.
2. The responses to the consultation are sent to the Department for Transport.

1. **Background**

1. Following the House of Commons' Transport Select Committee report of October 2013, the Department of Transport are consulting on a number of operational aspects and a general question on any other measures that the Government should consider with respect to anti-social parking or driving.

2. **Issues**

1. The questions in the consultation are:
 1. Do you consider local authority enforcement is being applied fairly and reasonably in your area?
 2. The Government intends to abolish the use of CCTV cameras for parking.
 3. Do you think the traffic adjudicators should have wider powers to allow appeals?
 4. Do you agree that guidance should be updated to make clear in what circumstances adjudicators may award costs? If so, what should those circumstances be?
 5. Do you think motorists who lose an appeal at a parking tribunal should be offered a 25% discount for prompt payment?

6. Do you think local residents and firms should be able to require local councils to review yellow lines, parking provision, charges in their area? If so, what should the reviews cover and what should the threshold for triggering a review?
7. Do you think that authorities be required by regulation to allow a grace period at the end of paid for parking?
8. Do you think a grace period should be offered more widely – for example a grace period for over staying in free parking bays, at the start of pay and display parking and paid for parking bays, and in areas where there are parking restrictions (such as loading restrictions, or single yellow lines)?
9. If allowed, how long do you think the grace period should be?
10. Do you think the Government should be considering any further measures to tackle genuinely anti-social parking or driving? If so what?

3. **Proposals**

1. Your officers suggest the following responses to the above questions are sent to the Department for Transport:
 1. Yes.
 2. The use of CCTV should not be abolished as there are a number of situations which benefit from its use.
 3. No.
 4. No.
 5. No.
 6. Existing traffic regulation orders should be reviewed, the difficulty is the lack of resources that are made available for this to take place. Any review should be area based and not at a specific street to avoid the problem being moved in to an adjoining location, it should look at the traffic problems as a whole not just one element. Triggers should be a mixture of changes in the usage of the area (e.g. residential, industrial), increase in traffic flows, redevelopment of the area and time.
 7. Yes, we already give 10 minutes.
 8. A grace period is already given for overstaying in free parking bays (10 mins), at the start of pay and display parking and paid for parking bays (5 mins). There is minimum a 5 min observation period before issuing a penalty charge notice on single and double yellow lines where there is no other associated restriction.
 9. See Question 7 and 8 above.
 10. There are a number of restrictions that can be implemented to manage parking; one of the main issues is the lack of resources that are made available to design a suitable scheme and to enforce the regulations as required.

4. **Outcomes Linked to Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Priorities**

1. Creating a clean, safe and sustainable Borough.
2. Creating a Borough of opportunity.

7. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

1. None for the Borough Council.

9. **Financial and Resource Implications**

1. None for the Borough Council.