

RESIDENTS' PARKING ZONES – FUNDING

Submitted by: **Engineering Manager – Graham Williams**

Portfolio: **Environment and Recycling**

Ward(s) affected: **All**

Purpose of the Report

To seek additional funding to accelerate the introduction of residents parking zones.

Recommendation

That Members request funding from cabinet to increase the rate of the introduction of residents parking schemes.

Reasons

Due to limited resources of the County Council and the intensive consultation associated with the introduction of the residents parking zones, additional funding would enable more areas to be considered sooner.

1. Background

- 1.1 The introduction of civil parking enforcement (originally decriminalised parking enforcement) over 5 years ago enabled the introduction of residents parking zones (RPZs) where appropriate.
- 1.2 The County Council is committed to progressing the introduction of one RPZ at a time.
- 1.3 The area to the south-east of the town centre is currently been considered for an RPZ.
- 1.4 There are a number of “No Entry – Except for Access” restrictions in the Borough that were introduced to control parking over 20 years ago; these can only be enforced by the police.

2. Issues

- 2.1 The process of assessing the suitability of an area for a RPZ is resource intensive and includes significant amounts of consultation with the residents. This has led to delays in investigating and the introduction of a RPZ, if suitable, of other areas within the Borough.
- 2.2 There have been a number of representations to both the Borough and County Councils regarding the indiscriminate parking especially around the town centre, requesting RPZs.
- 2.3 Due to the resources available to the police, the level of enforcement of the “No Entry – Except for Access” restrictions has reduced.
- 2.4 In order to reduce the delays in introducing a RPZ, the County Council could buy in external consultants to supplement their resources, funding for this would be needed.
- 2.5 Requests have been made to the County Council for additional funding to support this acceleration of the program. Unfortunately no suitable funding stream has been identified.

2.6 Whilst the CPE service is currently making a surplus, which would be suitable to fund this acceleration, it is being used to pay back the setup costs of the service as originally agreed.

3. **Proposals**

3.1 The Borough Council, should funding be available, could sponsor the RPZ program.

3.2 The cost to undertake a review of an area for a RPZ is very dependant on the response to the consultations with the residents and the area being considered. A budget estimate of between £15,000 to £20,000 would not be unreasonable; this would not include any of the TRO advertisement costs or the cost of any site works (signing, lining, possible kerbing works, etc.).`

3.3 As the County Council are not able to fund this funding to accelerate the program, members may request cabinet to consider funding this proposal.

3.4 A successful scheme would deter indiscriminate parking, leading to the potential for increased use of the Boroughs car parks and the associated increase in income.

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

- creating a cleaner, safer and sustainable Borough
- creating a Borough of opportunity

5. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

None for the Borough Council

6. **Financial and Resource Implications**

There is no provision for this funding in the 2013/14 budget.