

Central Bedfordshire Council

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday 18 August 2016

2015/16 Annual Parking Report for Central Bedfordshire Council

Report of (Executive Member for Community Services, Executive Member for brian.spurr@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Advising Officers: Director of Community Services, marcel.coiffait@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk and Parking Enforcement Manager, christian.proto@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk, 0300 300 5639

Purpose of this report

1. To inform the Committee about the draft 2015/16 Annual Parking Report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive or Committee is asked to:

1. To consider and discuss the draft 2015/16 Annual Parking Report for Central Bedfordshire.

Overview and Scrutiny Comments/Recommendations

Background

The Council is required to publish an Annual Parking Report setting out its parking activities. The report must be published no later than six months after the end of the financial year.

The draft 2015/16 Annual Parking Report (See Appendix A) sets out information on the Parking Enforcement Service and its approach to enforcement in Central Bedfordshire. The report also includes financial information and information on enforcement activity.

Options for consideration

N/A

Reason/s for decision

N/A

Council Priorities

Indicate how the proposed action supports at least one of the Council's priorities, listed below:

- Enhancing Central Bedfordshire
- Great resident services
- Improving education and skills
- Protecting the vulnerable; improving wellbeing
- Creating stronger communities
- A more efficient and responsive Council.

Parking and its enforcement is a significant concern for the residents of Central Bedfordshire. The effective and efficient management of parking tackles traffic congestion and improves safety for road users and pedestrians in Central Bedfordshire. This supports our infrastructure and the delivery of the Councils priorities.

Community Safety

1. The Council has a statutory duty to do all that it reasonable can to reduce crime and disorder, including environmental crime. Effective parking enforcement supports safety on the roads and reduces the potential for resident disputes about parking. Civil Enforcement Officers are also able to gather information and intelligence that support investigation into criminal activity, potential safeguarding issues and anti social behaviour.

Legal Implications

2. The Traffic Management Act 2004 imposes an explicit duty on local authorities to manage their network so as to reduce congestion and disruption. The Act also provides additional powers to do with parking, including increased scope to take over the enforcement of driving and parking offences from the police.

The Council is required under the Local Government Transparency Code issued by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and a Code of Recommended Practice (the Code) to publish information about the discharge of their functions and some other related matters. This report is issued to comply with the Code and following consultation in accordance with the Code and related legislation.

Financial and Risk Implications

3. The Annual Parking Report sets out financial information for the Parking Enforcement Team for 2015/16

Local Authority operating guidance for parking services sets out that an annual parking plan should be published no later than 6 months after the end of the financial year.

The Local Government Transparency Code 2015 sets out that the Council must publish information about its parking account.

Equalities Implications

4. Central Bedfordshire Council has a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and foster good relations in respect of nine protected characteristics; age disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

Effective parking enforcement helps keep pavements and highways clear, which helps promote accessibility especially for older and disabled residents. Enforcement also supports fair use of the available parking spaces for example overseeing the provision of dedicated Disabled Bays.

Implications for Work Programming

N/A

Conclusion and next Steps

Subject to the committees recommendations the draft 2015/16 Annual Parking Plan is finalised and published in line with the guidance set out in the report.

Appendices

Appendix A - Draft 2015/16 Annual Parking Report for Central Bedfordshire Council

Background Papers

N/A