

Response to Scrutiny and Overview Committee recommendation regarding future parking provision to meet the needs of increased housing within the district; from the Cabinet Member for Local Economy

At the Scrutiny and Overview Committee on 14th March the Members approved the following request to the Cabinet Member for the Local Economy:

Recommendation:

As a result of all the additional housing in the District he was concerned that this would lead to an increase in car ownership and that there was no provision for an increase in parking in the town centre. Car parking fees were also an important part of the Council's revenue and needed to be safeguarded.

The Chairman sought support from the Committee to ask the Cabinet Member for the Local Economy to produce a report with a strategy for the future with consideration to be given to the additional houses, potential car parking sites, park and ride and the car parking revenue. The Committee suggested that this also include rural car parks.

The Committee noted that the Cabinet was already looking at a future vision and plan for Horsham and parking was also part of this.

Response from the Cabinet member for the Local Economy:

There are a number of pieces of work currently being undertaken which consider the future provision/needs for parking spaces within Horsham town, and the rural areas. These include:

1. Transport Survey of the town centre

The Strategic Planning department in conjunction with Parking Services are currently undertaking research to inform the emerging Town centre Vision work. This includes a traffic and transport study. It is suggested that the result of this work will be available during May/June 2016. A key objective of this study will be to identify current and future transport needs within the town centre, including recommendation for changes and enhancements to the town centre car parks.

2. Rural car park review

Parking Services are currently reviewing the rural parking provision and management arrangements. Some members recently attended a discussion on rural parking to explore possible options. During this exercise it is imperative that we have a better understanding of the current user needs within the car parks, so it has been agreed that we will be undertaking a detailed user survey of the individual rural car parks. This information will then be used to inform the production of a new rural

parking strategy; this will include future provision for all users including; long stay parkers, frequent users and infrequent visitors. Once the issues have been highlighted an action plan to address the individual needs of the villages will be created.

3. Parking Services Strategic Objectives

Within the six strategic objectives for parking services there are two particular objectives that focus on the protection of income and future provision needs, these are:

- Analyse and maximise all growth opportunities to improve car park occupancy and income generation
- Future proof parking requirements to meet the needs of all user groups

Each one of these objectives has a number of projects. These projects are all aimed to be delivered over the next 3 years. Projects that are related to future provision of parking spaces and protection of income include:

- Reviewing long stay car parking arrangements
- Increasing capacity through reconfiguration of existing car park layouts which will increase the number of spaces available
- Production of a car parking investment plan to increase the provision of car parking provision across Horsham district to meet demand
- Exploration of new parking opportunities
- Review of Season ticket parking and demand
- Occupancy maximization strategy
- Smartpark expansion
- ANPR roll-out