



**PARTNERSHIP AND RESOURCES POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

**REPORT BY HEAD OF FINANCE AND PROPERTY SERVICES**

**PROPOSED CAR PARK CHARGING**

**A. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To advise the Panel of the intention to progress a review of car parking controls in West Lothian.

**B. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Panel:

1. Notes that a wider review for the management of parking (both on and off street) will be progressed to ensure a comprehensive approach to parking controls in West Lothian; and
2. Notes the review will consider the various models for the delivery of parking controls.

**C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

<b>I</b>	<b>Council Values</b>	Being honest, open and accountable; making best use of our resources; working in partnership
<b>II</b>	<b>Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)</b>	An integrated impact assessment will be undertaken as part of the wider review of parking.
<b>III</b>	<b>Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers</b>	None.
<b>IV</b>	<b>Impact on performance and performance Indicators</b>	None.
<b>V</b>	<b>Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement</b>	None.
<b>VI</b>	<b>Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)</b>	The council agreed a five year revenue plan for 2018/19 to 2022/23 on 13 February 2018

including a proposal for charging for car parks. The approved saving and income generation total is £260,000 per annum from 2019/20. The work on wider parking strategy development will be funded within existing one off resources.

- VII Consideration at PDSP** The report is for consideration by the PDSP.
- VIII Other consultations** Legal Services, Roads and Transportation, Housing, Financial Management Unit and Corporate Transformational Change Unit.

## **D. TERMS OF REPORT**

### **D1 Introduction**

The council, as part of its Corporate Asset Management Strategy 2018/19 to 2027/28, aims to manage its assets effectively and efficiently for the benefit of our communities and in support of corporate objectives and priorities.

In relation to car parks, the aims are to maximise the benefits from these (both utilisation and financial); to regulate and improve parking; to sustain and improve the condition and suitability of car parks; achieve cost savings on maintenance and non-domestic rates; and to generate income.

Council previously agreed as part of the approval of the Revenue Budget Strategy 2018/19 to 2022/23 in February 2018 that the proposal for implementing car parking controls and charging should be presented to Partnership and Resources PDSP for further consideration.

This report sets out the intention to undertake a wider review of parking management in West Lothian and to identify proposals to maximise the benefits from these assets.

### **D2 Context**

West Lothian Council is one of only four local authorities in Scotland that do not currently charge for parking. The opportunity therefore exists to improve the management and control of car parks, maximise the utilisation of these assets, improve condition and suitability through private investment, achieve savings and potentially generate income.

### **D3 Car Parking Management Models**

An initial review of the main models for managing car parks has been undertaken by officers from various services including Roads, Property, Legal, Housing and Finance. This concluded that various options may be suitable for further consideration such as In-House direct management (using Road Traffic Regulation Act powers), External Management (using Road Traffic Regulation Act powers), Decriminalised Parking Enforcement and a Lease Agreement approach.

Whilst all of these have various advantages and disadvantages it was concluded that any model(s) to be considered for adoption in West Lothian require to be compatible with a wider strategic framework and that these do not prohibit the implementation of other models.

A development of a strategy for the management of car parking in West Lothian is considered essential as it will enable the establishment of wider aims and objectives for these assets. In addition, it will establish the framework to effectively and efficiently manage car parks and to establish the mechanisms and models for parking controls that will meet council and community objectives.

It is proposed that the development of the strategy is undertaken in advance of any proposals for the implementation of parking controls and revised management arrangements to ensure compatibility with corporate objectives and local requirements. As part of the development of the strategy the various models that are considered appropriate for the control and pro-active management of car parks and parking in general will be evaluated and reported upon.

#### **D4 Parking Strategy Development**

The development of the proposed parking strategy will be progressed by officers from various relevant services to ensure that any proposals that come forward in the future are comprehensive and seek to achieve corporate and service level objectives. Previous consideration of parking and management approaches will be reviewed including decriminalised parking and regulated parking. These were previously reported to Environment PDSP in March 2014 as part of the review of traffic warden provision and potential for decriminalised parking enforcement in West Lothian. This report concluded that due to resource requirements and longer term financial viability concerns, the council would not progress parking controls using these models.

It is proposed however, that the previous conclusions are reviewed and that other parking models such as a lease arrangement are considered as part of the comprehensive review and strategy development.

The undertaking of the wider review and the proposed parking strategy development is proposed to be initiated and progressed with appropriate reporting on conclusion of the research. It is proposed that the saving for car park charging is not included in the planned savings at this time but is reviewed on conclusion of the parking strategy research and development.

#### **E. CONCLUSION**

It is proposed that officers proceed with research and development of a wider strategy for parking management in West Lothian including evaluation of appropriate models that can be adopted. In undertaking the wider review and the development of a strategic framework for the management of parking, the council will be able to consider appropriate models to achieve its corporate objectives for the management of these assets.

#### **F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES**

Revenue Budget 2018/19 to 2022/23 – Report to Council – 13 February 2018

Review of Traffic Warden Provision and Potential for Decriminalised Parking Enforcement - Report to Environment PDSP - 27 March 2014

Appendices/Attachments: None

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