

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 29 JANUARY 2019  
REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR (RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT AND  
CULTURAL SERVICES)

DRIVEWAY KEEP CLEAR POLICY AND PRICING STRATEGY

**1 Executive Summary**

- 1.1 Hertfordshire County Council have discontinued the practice of putting in H-Bars within the Borough. Parking Services receive a number of requests from residents regarding the provision of H-Bar road markings (also known as access protection markings, vehicular entrance markings etc.) An H-Bar is an elongated white 'H' on the carriageway that is marked across a vehicular crossing where there is a dropped kerb. Their main purpose is to remind drivers there is an access present and the area should be kept clear of parked vehicles.
- 1.2 H-Bars are only advisory and are not legally enforceable similar to advisory disabled bays. In the vast majority of advisory disabled bays are honoured by roads users. Particularly in area which do not want any formal restrictions this would provide an alternative by providing a visual deterrent to drivers.

**2 Recommendation(s)**

- 2.1 The Committee recommends to Cabinet to approve the process outlined in 3.4; and to instigate discussions with Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) with a view to amend the current Parking Services Agency Agreement, to allow Welwyn Hatfield Council to carry out this type of work.

**3 Explanation**

- 3.1 HCC are responsible for the installation of H-Bar road markings but have discontinued the practise. Many local authorities up and down the country have varying approaches to providing to residents.
- 3.2 The costs for providing H-Bar markings also vary widely. Many authorities charge a non-returnable survey fee for the initial application which covers the inspection and response. An additional fee is then requested for the installation. The cost for refreshing a H-Bar, once installed, is borne by the authority and carried out as part of their general maintenance. Some councils dispense with an application fee, but charge for the installation of the markings, with an additional fee for any refreshment remarking.
- 3.3 Officers are proposing to adopt the following process:
- The resident completes an applications form for an H-Bar and make payment. The form will then be passed through to Parking Services.
  - An officer will go out to the site and if possible meet with the resident to measure the length of the proposed H-Bar. See Appendix A.

- This will then be added to the next lining order (these are carried out twice a year)
- The drawing will be kept on file if the residents decides to have this refreshed at a later date.
- It is intended that any lining works will be added to the next lining order of which the Council carry out two orders per year. These are carried out between April-September when the weather is generally better.

3.4 If residents already have an H-Bar marking, which was originally marked out by HCC, they will have to apply for the initial application. This is because an officer will still need to go out on site, produce a design and manage the process with a line marking contractor.

3.5 Officers are intending to make this service cost neutral. If Hertfordshire County Council are amenable to Welwyn Hatfield taking on this type of work. Costs will be form part of the Council's budget setting process with a view to having this available to residents in 2020/2021, dependent on Council approval.

#### **4 Legal Implication(s)**

4.1 WHBC currently carries out the Borough's Parking Management through an Agency Agreement with HCC. If the Committee recommend for this new service to be included within Parking Services remit. Discussions will need to take place with Officers at HCC to amend the Agency Agreement to include with work.

#### **5 Financial Implication(s)**

5.1 There are no known financial implications for the Council arising from this report.

#### **6 Risk Management Implications**

As mentioned this type of marking is only advisory and not enforceable. The applicant would need to be made aware of this at the time they apply for this work.

#### **7 Security & Terrorism Implications**

7.1 There are no known security & terrorism implications inherent in relation to the proposals in this report.

#### **8 Human Resources**

8.1 There are no known Human Resources implications in relation to the proposals in this report.

#### **9 Communication and Engagement**

9.1 Any application form must mentioned how the process work and the timescales involved. It must also make clear that this type of marking is only advisory and not enforceable.

## **10 Health and Wellbeing**

10.1 There are no known Health and Wellbeing implications in relation to the proposals in this report.

## **11 Procurement Implications**

11.1 There are no known procurement implications in relation to the proposals in this report.

## **12 Climate Change Implication(s)**

12.1 There are no known climate change implications in relation to the proposals in this report.

## **13 Link to Corporate Priorities**

13.1 This report is linked to the Council's Corporate Priority Protect and Enhance the Environment, and specifically to the achievement to Deliver Effective Parking Services

- Protect and enhance the environment and deliver effective parking services;
- Engage with our communities and provide value for money

## **14 Equality and Diversity**

14.1 An EqIA I confirm that an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been carried out.

14.2 The EqIA found that there is potential for positive impacts on Age, Pregnancy and Disability. The advisory white line (H Bar) could help residents to enter and exit their private property more easily. Therefore, could encourage those vulnerable residents to go out more.

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