

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 18 MARCH 2025  
REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT

TASK AND FINISH GROUP – PARKING CONSULTATIONS

**Executive Summary**

- 1.1 Parking Services are tasked by Cabinet Planning and Parking Panel with carrying out the Parking Works Programme. This is a programme of consultations carried out across the Borough with a view to seeking the views of residents and other stakeholders on the need to introduction, removal and amendment of parking restrictions. The programme is set every two years and the current Parking Works Programme is for 2024 to 2026.
- 1.2 A Task and Finish Group was set up to review the parking consultation process and make recommendations to OSC for improvements.
- 1.3 A number of meetings were held and the process was reviewed in detail, leading to two recommendations.

**2 Recommendation(s)**

- 2.1 That the Committee notes that the Cabinet Parking and Planning Panel (CPPP) will be considering the 26-28 Parking Works Programme during 2025 and would ask CPPP to:
  - Build in flexibility for follow up consultations to take place on larger schemes within the same Parking Works Programme, rather than having to wait for subsequent Parking Works Programmes. It is acknowledged this could adversely impact the capacity of the work programme.

Ensure that these do not overly impact the remainder of the Parking Works Programme these follow up consultations should only occur where the original consultation was in excess of 1,000 properties.

  - That these follow up consultations should be limited in size being no more than three roads within a consultation area and that the total number of properties reconsulted should be no more than 100.
  - That these follow up consultations can be triggered by a request by a minimum of two members for the relevant wards, with approval by the Executive Member for Environment.
- 2.2 That prior to the review period commencing Ward Councillors will be informed by Parking Services and the timetable for considering feedback from the review and implementing any changes will be confirmed once it is known.

### **3 Explanation**

- 3.1 A Task and Finish Group was set up to review the Parking Consultations Process, three meetings were held on the 13<sup>th</sup> January, 27<sup>th</sup> January and 11<sup>th</sup> February respectively. Officers presented on the following topics:

Parking Restrictions and Legal Framework – Introduction and overview.

Parking Works Programme – Introduction and 24-26 Programme.

Parking Enforcement – Introduction and Legislation

Income and Expenditure from Parking Enforcement

Case Study of implementation

How the 24/26 Parking Works Programme was determined.

Capacity of the Parking Works Programme and potential to amend in the future.

Minutes of these meetings have been published through the Council's normal process and are attached as appendices to this report.

- 3.2 Members of the Task and Finish Group were keen that the 26-28 Parking Works Programme included spare capacity to allow for follow up consultations. Examples were given of roads within recent consultations which had voted against resident permits and now regretted them not being implemented following implementation in surrounding roads. Whilst all TRO's are reviewed following implementation this does not allow for changes as substantial as those given in the example, which would require a follow up consultation.
- 3.3 It was recognised that doing this would place an additional burden on Parking Services. It would therefore require either increasing the resources available to Parking Services, or reducing the scope of future Parking Works Programmes.
- 3.4 Given the desire for the Parking Works Programme and Parking Enforcement as a whole to be cost neutral it was recognised that there was no scope to increase the staffing resources available to Parking Services.
- 3.5 It was recognised that, given there are wards which have either never had a full ward consultation, or have not had a full ward consultation for many years, it would not be desirable to reduce the capacity of future Parking Works Programmes by too great a degree. It was therefore agreed that there should be limitations on the number and implementation of these follow up consultations. These are included in the recommendations.

### **Implications**

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

- 4.1 None.

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

5.1 There recommendations are designed to be cost neutral.

## **6 Risk Management Implications**

6.1 The introduction of follow up consultations does risk “consultation fatigue”. This may result in lower levels of engagement for follow up consultations, or accusations that the Council is repeating the consultation to get the answer they want. Ward members will be key in ensuring the correct messaging is given to residents regarding the reasons for the follow up consultation.

6.2 The introduction of follow up consultations impacts the ability to deliver new consultations, this will lead to delays elsewhere in the Borough and may lead to discontent from residents who feel that some areas are getting preferential treatment compared to their area. The recommended restrictions will help limit this.

6.3 The necessity to include reserve schemes may lead to increased expectations in those areas, which may not be fulfilled. The recommendation to consider reserve schemes for inclusion in future works programmes will help alleviate this.

## **7 Security and Terrorism Implication(s)**

7.1 None directly from this report.

## **8 Procurement Implication(s)**

8.1 None.

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

9.1 None.

## **10 Human Resources Implication(s)**

10.1 None.

## **11 Health and Wellbeing Implication(s)**

11.1 None.

## **12 Communication and Engagement Implication(s)**

12.1 The recommendations will lead to future communications and engagement implications, but these will be dealt with via the usual methods utilised as part of the Parking Works Programme.

## **13 Link to Corporate Priorities**

13.1 The subject of this report is linked to the following Council’s Corporate Priorities.

13.2 Run an effective council – The recommendations mean that there is a greater likelihood of resident satisfaction following the consultations.

13.3 Together, create opportunities for our communities – The recommendations provide communities greater opportunity to shape parking enforcement in their locality.

#### **14 Equality and Diversity**

14.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) was not completed at this stage as this report does not propose changes to existing service-related policies or the development of new service-related policies.

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#### Appendices

- 1 – Minutes of the Parking Permits Task and Finish Group – 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025
- 2 – Minutes of the Parking Permits Task and Finish Group – 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025
- 3 – Minutes of the Parking Permits Task and Finish Group – 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025