

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
CABINET PLANNING AND PARKING PANEL – 11 NOVEMBER 2021
REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

REVIEW OF THE PARKING SERVICES WORK PROGRAMME 2022-2024

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 Throughout the year, the Council receives many requests for parking restrictions, and these are recorded on the Parking Services Investigation List for consideration for a future Parking Work Programme. The Work Programme allows the Parking Services team to manage the expectations of the communities' requesting restrictions and the associated workload demand of the team.
- 1.2 The current Work Programme agreed by Cabinet on the 7th June 2018 addressed the number of requests from several wards.
- 1.3 Up to the 6th August 2021 the Council had received a further 330 parking requests from the community in areas that are currently not on the Works Programme.

2 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That the Panel recommends to Cabinet to approve the new Works Programme 2022-2024, as outlined in sections 3.11 and 3.13 of this report.
- 2.2 That the Panel recommends to Cabinet that delegated authority is given to Head of Environment in consultation with Executive Member for Resources to make minor adjustments to the programme, in order to assist with the delivery of Council's corporate projects as and when required.

3 Explanation

- 3.1 The purpose of this report is to consider and agree areas to be included in the future Works Programme.
- 3.2 The Council agreed the current Work Programme in 2018. Parking consultations have been carried out in all the areas on the current Work Programme; however, formal parking proposals for some areas are yet to be finalised.
- 3.3 The current parking team has four officers responsible for the introduction or amendment of parking restrictions. The process consists of an informal consultation with the local community, which informs officers in the development of a formal parking proposal. The formal proposal is subject to a

statutory consultation, and schemes that are implemented are subject to a post-implementation review.

- 3.4 Engagement of the community varies and therefore, on occasions, several consultations may be carried out in areas with lower response rate to ascertain the communities' views on parking issues. Areas with a response rate of 25% or less may not be recommended for introduction or amendment of parking restrictions; however, if this occurs, the detailed report will be presented to Cabinet Planning and Parking Panel (CPPP) to recommend a way forward.
- 3.5 The Council has carried out numerous parking consultations across the borough and many schemes have been introduced. These areas for the last twelve years are shown in Appendix A.
- 3.6 The table below lists the schemes from the current Work Programme that are currently ongoing. These areas are also shown in Appendix A.

Scheme	% completed
Handside	85%
Peartree	30%
Ellenbrook	25%
High Dells, College Lane area	15%
Hilltop, Hazel Grove area	15%

- 3.7 The schemes that were recently completed and therefore subject to a post-implementation review are listed below.

Schemes recently completed
Old Hatfield
Essendon
Salisbury Village
Hatfield Town Centre Car Parks
Birchwood (Hatfield Central and East)

- 3.8 It should be noted that once the ongoing schemes are implemented, these schemes will be also subject to a post implementation review.
- 3.9 The table below shows the number of requests for parking restrictions received from the Borough, broken down by ward, omitting the wards that are currently being consulted.

Ward	No of requests
Sherrards	62
Hollybush	40
Howlands	38
Panshanger	34
Welham Green & Hatfield South	33
Welwyn West	26

Brookmans Park & Little Heath	21
Welwyn East	19
Haldens	16
Northaw & Cuffley	15
Hatfield Villages	13
Hatfield East	11
Hatfield Central	2
Total	330

3.10 Whilst the number of requests for parking restrictions received is a key factor when areas are being considered for inclusion onto the Work Programme, several other factors should be also taken into consideration, such as the ongoing parking consultations, and any significant displacement of vehicles because of any other projects.

3.11 The officers' recommendation is for the areas to be included in the Works Programme 2022-2024 are as shown in the table below, and in Appendix B.

Areas to be added onto Works Programme 2022-2024
Sherrards
Hollybush (North)
Howlands (North)
South and East Hatfield
Robin Hood Lane/The Common & Pine Grove

3.12 The above areas were selected due to their proximity to the areas where restrictions are currently in place; or to areas that are presently being considered for additional parking controls, and in conjunction with the number of requests received from each area.

3.12.1 It should be noted that the new Work Programme will not commence until the schemes on the current Work Programme are completed; it is anticipated that this will be end of 2022 early 2023.

3.12.2 Any change to restrictions required in new or existing car parks e.g., the inclusion of electric vehicle (EV) charging points etc.

3.13 In addition to request for introduction or amendment of parking restrictions received from local resident, businesses and other stakeholders, the parking team must also have a regard to the Council's corporate projects and therefore, on occasions, minor adjustments to the work programme may be required. It is therefore recommended that the Panel consider that the Head of Environment, in consultation with Executive Member for Resources is given delegated authority to make minor adjustments to the Work Programme. Any formal objections to a proposed scheme will be reported to CPPP.

4 Legal Implications

- 4.1 Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) are created under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. Consultations follow a statutory legal process as set out in The Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996. No other legal implications are inherent in relation into the proposals in this report.

5 Financial Implication(s)

- 5.1 The costs associated with the works programme will be funded through the existing Parking Services revenue and capital budgets.
- 5.2 It is standard procedure to monitor new parking restrictions for the first six months after they are implemented. During this period all reports of safety issues or parking displacement will be recorded. If any significant safety issues are discovered during the monitoring period, Parking Services will investigate and carry out the appropriate remedial action.

6 Risk Management Implications

- 6.1 A risk assessment has not been prepared in relation to the proposals in this report as there are no new significant risks inherent in the report.
- 6.2 Changing the parking conditions could generate some negative publicity; however, changes to parking restrictions are subject to a public consultation and comments on proposals will be considered before any changes are implemented. Some parking may be displaced into nearby roads, and this will be monitored.
- 6.3 The amount of yellow lining and parking control within the borough continues to increase and this increase may in due course require additional budget to ensure lining and signage is appropriate for enforcement.
- 6.4 Any significant safety issues that may be discovered during the post implementation review will be investigated by the Parking Services team where possible and an appropriate remedial action will be carried out.

7 Security & Terrorism Implications

- 7.1 There are no known security & terrorism implications 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 A statutory consultation is required with all stakeholders when changes to parking restrictions are being proposed by way of introducing a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) and this includes the emergency services and Hertfordshire County Council.
- 9.2 The proposed changes are being advertised in the local newspaper, the Welwyn Hatfield Times and site notices are erected in the roads affected detailing the proposed changes.
- 9.3 Prior to the statutory consultation being undertaken, the Parking Services team engage with the residents and businesses of the area to advise them that the parking restrictions in the area are due to be reviewed and invites them to submit their comments on the parking issues and in the area.
- 9.4 All formal objections to the proposed TRO are considered by the CPPP. The Panel's recommendations are presented to the Cabinet for consideration.

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 inherent in relation to the proposals in this report

12 Climate Change Implication(s)

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

13 Link to Corporate Priorities

The subject of this report is linked to the Council's Corporate Priority 'A sense of community where people feel safe' as well as to the Corporate Priority 'A well-run Council which puts our customers first':

- Create welcoming neighbourhoods and community spaces where people feel safe
- Invest in strong, inclusive, and supportive communities
- Deliver modern, efficient, and transparent services for everyone

14 Equality and Diversity

14.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has not been carried out. The creation of Traffic Regulation Orders requires further statutory consultation. An EIA will be completed during this process.

Name of author	Eliska Robova
Title	Parking and Playground Services Manager
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Background papers to be listed (if applicable):

Appendix A – Areas consulted since 2009, including ongoing consultations

Appendix B – Proposed areas for 2022-2024 Work Programme

Appendix C – Detailed Maps of wards to be added to Work Programme