

Lead Officer's Report

Environment, item 5

Committee: Environment

Agenda Item

Date: 30 October 2007

5

Title: Lead Officer's Report.

Author: John Mitchell, Director of Development.

Item for noting

Summary

This report updates Members on matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting that are not on this Agenda, and other information of relevance.

Recommendations

That the report is noted.

Background Papers

Minutes of meeting of 4th September 2007

Reports referred to in this report

Impact

Communication/Consultation	None
Community Safety	None
Equalities	None
Finance	None
Human Rights	No direct implications
Legal implications	No direct implications
Ward-specific impacts	All
Workforce/Workplace	None

Situation

4. Matters from the previous meeting not on this agenda

Minute E16 – Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation in the East of England. UDC's comments have been received by EERA and the Regional Planning Panel will consider a preferred option on 12 December 2007, followed by submission of the preferred option to the Secretary of State and further consultation in early 2008.

Lead Officer's Report

Environment, item 5

5. The status of the Essex and Southend-on-Sea Structure Plan

The Structure Plan "expired" on 27th September 2007, with only the following policies being carried through as "saved" policies:

Policy reference	Subject
NR3	Extension of Suffolk Coast/ Heaths AONB
CC1	Undeveloped Coast - Coastal Protection Belt
BIW9	Airport Development
LRT6	Coastal Water Recreation
EG1	Proposals for New Power Stations
T2	Transport Investment Priorities
T4	Passenger Transport
MIN4	Sterilisation & Safeguarding of Mineral Sites

The Structure Plan was to have been superseded by the East of England Plan, but its adoption has been delayed to the new year. In the meantime the Development Plan will comprise Government Policy, the above saved Structure Plan policies and the Local Plan.

Lead Officer's Report
Environment, item 5

Lead Officer's Report
Environment, item 5

November '06 Appendix C3 Reference	Policy Detail	Current Position Statement (August 2007) and Planned Actions.
2	Car Parks / Off-Street Parking.	
2.6	Continuation of Pay & Display.	
2.6.1	No changes are made to the payment methods in any of the Council's car parks.	Pay & Display retained. No plans for pay-on-foot, pay-on-exit or other alternatives.
2.6.2	A 3-year rolling replacement programme of new Pay and Display machines with solar power be implemented.	2-year programme adopted. Solar power options explored but dismissed for most locations due to: Additional cost of machines. Solar power only an add-on, machines still require mains or battery primary power source. All machines other than those in Swan Meadow, Saffron Walden, to be replaced in 2007 (replacement programme starts September). Swan Meadow to follow in 2008/9.
2.6.3	Operations Committee be asked to make provision in the Capital Programme 2007/8 and 2008/9 for £30,000 p.a. to cover the cost of the Pay & Display machine replacement programme.	Done. Capital finance is in place for the replacement programme (additional funding was sourced by selling some of the machines being replaced).
2.6.4	Officers further investigate the provision of mobile phone parking and other payment methods and report back to this committee on the practical and financial implications.	Smart-card system being introduced as part of the machine replacement programme (card readers are integral in some of the new machines). Based on similar systems, e.g. in Ipswich, involving a partnership between machine provider Cale-BriParc, smart card experts ERS, software providers Chipside and the local Council.

Lead Officer's Report
Environment, item 5

		<p>System to be called 'U-Park', introduced and tested in autumn 2007 for press launch in December 2007.</p> <p>The introduction of new payment machinery and the U-Park system to be managed via a dedicated project plan.</p>
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Lead Officer's Report

Environment, item 5

2.9	Station Car Parks.	
2.9.1	Officers to liaise with relevant contacts as appropriate and necessary.	Ongoing.
2.10	Agreements with Waitrose, Boots, the Co-op and Stansted Parish Council for Car Park services.	
2.10.1	Officers to ensure that UDC meets its obligations as set out in the Agreements with relevant parties.	Ongoing – no issues.
2.10.2	Officers to ensure relevant parties are consulted as set out in Parking Policy 4 – Consultation.	Ongoing – will be included in all future consultations, particularly regarding fees and charges.
3	On-Street Parking and Residents Parking Schemes.	
3.2	Fly Parking in the District: officers work in conjunction with ECC and the relevant Parish Council to consider what schemes could be introduced to address the fly-parking problem. If appropriate, consultation to be carried out and, if required, the preferred scheme to be introduced for an 18 month trial period.	New restrictions currently being introduced by ECC in Takeley, in consultation with UDC. Further issues continue to be monitored in partnership with ECC.
3.6	Fees and Charges for On-Street Parking: every other year On-Street Parking Charges to be reviewed and consideration given to appropriate changes.	Charges currently coming under review. Target for implementation of any changes is April 2008, following extensive consultation and Committee approval of proposed new charges.
6	Staff.	

Lead Officer's Report

Environment, item 5

6.3	Staffing Levels: to ensure staffing levels are maintained at an optimum level, Officers to recruit in a timely and efficient manner.	Management partnership arrangements currently being developed with Braintree District Council, with further potential partnership working arrangements to be explored. There are no current enforcement staffing issues.
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Lead Officer's Report
Environment, item 5

8	Other Issues.	
8.1	Land Purchase for Future Off-Street Car Park Provision: Parking and Development Services officers to consider opportunities for land purchase /Section 106 agreements for the provision of Off-Street Car Parks as opportunities arise.	No current opportunities are available. Continue to monitor.
8.4	M11 Expansion: Officers of Development Services to consider whether there is adequate parking provision when plans for major developments are being looked at.	Ongoing: with Development Services.
8.5	Introduction of Park and Ride: Where an opportunity is identified to introduce a Park & Ride Scheme(s) officers present details to the relevant Area Panel and the Environment Committee for consideration.	No plans currently being progressed Continue to monitor.
8.6	Environmental Implications: any new provision of parking facilities to undergo an Environmental Impact Assessment.	Any new projects/facilities will be fully assessed as they arise.

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