
**Report To: Safe, Sustainable Communities
Committee**

Date: 12 January 2010

**Report By: Corporate Director Environment
and Community Protection**

Report No: ECP/RDS/SH09/005

Contact Officer: Stephen Hartley

Contact No: 01475 714837

**Subject: Greenock Town Centre Parking and Removal of Redundant Traffic
Restrictions**

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval to appoint Consultants for (1) the investigation into the introduction of charged parking within Greenock town centre including the options on Parking Enforcement and (2) to review the removal of any unnecessary areas of existing waiting and loading restrictions and to identify any additional areas for on and off road parking within Greenock town centre.

2.0 SUMMARY

2.1 The opportunity is now available to consider how a charged parking policy within Greenock town centre can contribute to adopted national, regional and local policies and strategies.

2.2 The principal objectives of a charged parking policy is to:

- Improve traffic flows and ensure the safe movement of vehicular and pedestrian traffic on the road network,
- Minimise the detrimental effects of parking and traffic on the environment by reducing air and noise pollution,
- Maintain and protect the commercial and residential viability of the town centre by helping to make the town centre a more attractive place for shoppers, visitors and businesses.

2.3 A number of existing waiting and loading restrictions within the town centre, which were introduced many years ago, now appear to be redundant. As a result it may now be possible to remove, or amend, some of these traffic restrictions.

2.4 Revocation of areas of existing traffic restrictions may present the opportunity to provide additional areas of on road parking for motorists within the town centre.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 That Committee note the contents of this report.

3.2 That Committee approve the appointment of Consultants to (1) investigate the removal of redundant areas of traffic restrictions within the town centre and identify any additional areas for on and off road parking (2) investigate the introduction of charged parking within Greenock town centre including the options on Parking Enforcement and provide a developed business case supporting the proposals.

3.3 That it be remitted to the Corporate Director Environment and Community Protection to report back to Committee on the recommendations from the Consultants on 3.2 above.

Alan G. Barnes
Head of Environmental Services

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Complaints of the lack of adequate and convenient town centre parking within Greenock have been well documented for some time.
- 4.2 Surveys undertaken during April and May 2007 confirmed that Council car parks operate over capacity with widespread indiscriminate parking (i.e. outwith designated bays) with over 41% of users parking for greater than 4 hours on week days. This is an increase on a study in 1992 which found a comparable figure of up to 35%.
- 4.3 As a result of a lack of sufficient convenient parking, violation of existing waiting and loading restrictions is experienced within the town centre.
- 4.4 Long stay parking produces a low turnover of parking places which can cause congestion resulting in loading and unloading problems for businesses and shoppers within the town centre.
- 4.5 Within the town centre a number of waiting and loading restrictions were introduced by former local authorities to deal with the situation at that time.
- 4.6 Traffic problems may now have changed with existing traffic restrictions no longer relevant. As a result it may now be possible to revoke or amend traffic restrictions to provide additional areas of on road parking.
- 4.7 Removal of waiting and loading restrictions would require the promotion of Traffic Regulation Orders.

5.0 PROPOSALS

- 5.1 It is proposed to appoint consultants within the next financial year 2010 / 2011 to investigate the implementation of charged parking within the town centre including options on Parking Enforcement and to provide a developed business case supporting any proposals.
- 5.4 It is proposed to appoint consultants within the next financial year. 2010 / 2011 to review existing areas with parking restrictions within the town centre and to provide, where possible, additional areas for on and off road parking.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The cost of the above proposals will be contained within the 2010/2011 revenue budget.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Finance Services have not been consulted on this report
- 7.2 Legal Services have not been consulted on this report

8.0 EQUALITIES AGENDA

- 8.1 This report does not impact on the Council's Equality Agenda.