

Report To: ENVIRONMENT & REGENERATION COMMITTEE **Date:** 3 MARCH 2016

Report By: CORPORATE DIRECTOR,
ENVIRONMENT, REGENERATION &
RESOURCES **Report No:** ERC/ENV/IIM/16.272

Contact Officer: ROBERT GRAHAM **Contact No:** 01475 714800

Subject: GOUROCK TOWN CENTRE PARKING STRATEGY REVIEW

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to advise Committee of the proposals to review the parking strategy in Gourock Town Centre following feedback received from some members of the public.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 As part of the Village Parking Strategy, which was reported to the Environment and Regeneration Committee of 16 June 2015, approval was given to promote a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to introduce free parking with a 3 hour limited waiting restriction in half of the Kempock Street car park whilst the other half remained free with no limit of time.
- 2.2 Following the TRO becoming effective on 18 January 2016, Ward Members and Officers have received a number of complaints. As a result, Ward Members have asked that the Parking Strategy for Gourock Town Centre be revisited to take account of current parking habits.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the Committee note that surveys and a consultation will be undertaken and the mix of parking restrictions reconsidered in accordance with the findings.
- 3.2 That the Committee note a report will be brought to the Environment and Regeneration Committee at the earliest opportunity detailing the findings of the survey and the consultation and any new proposals which arise as a result.

Ian Moffat
Head of Environmental and Commercial Services

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Following the introduction of Decriminalised Parking Enforcement in Inverclyde on 6 October 2014 the Council undertook to carry out a review of parking in all of the towns and villages.
- 4.2 As a result, letters were issued to the Community Councils seeking their views on what changes, if any, were required within their area. Gourock Community Council responded asking that a 3 hour limited waiting restriction be introduced in the Kempock Street car park to prevent commuters from taking up spaces all day.
- 4.3 Councillor McEleny also undertook consultation on Kempock Street with 45% of respondents believing that the car park should provide long and short stay parking.
- 4.4 As a result, a report was submitted to a Special Meeting of this Committee on 16 June 2015. Officers proposed in their report that 75% of the Kempock Street car park has a 3 hour limited waiting restriction and 25% has no time limit. Members asked that the split be amended to 50% / 50% and this was agreed. A TRO was introduced to this effect on 18 January 2016.
- 4.5 Since the introduction of the new TRO, Ward Members and Council Officers have received comments from patrons advising the long stay car park is well used and the short stay car park is not being fully utilised.
- 4.6 Officers met with Ward Members to review the comments and possible options on a way forward for parking in Gourock Town Centre. As a result it was agreed that in order to take more informed decisions about parking in the town centre it would be necessary to undertake a review of both on and off-street parking usage.
- 4.7 The review will be undertaken by carrying out surveys of on and off-street parking. Due to the seasonal nature of Gourock Town Centre these surveys will be undertaken before and after Gourock Outdoor Pool opens. Inverclyde Leisure has advised that the pool opens 6 May 2016.
- 4.8 A consultation process will also be undertaken to seek the experiences of the various patrons.
- 4.9 From the data received proposals will be brought back to the Environment and Regeneration Committee, after Officers have considered what the appropriate mix of parking restrictions is both on-street on Kempock Street and Lower Kempock Street and off-street in the Kempock Street car parks and the Council owned car parks in Station Road. These proposals will include whether the split in the Kempock Street car parks needs to be altered and advise if the on-street limited waiting restrictions on both Kempock Street and Lower Kempock Street are working effectively or if there is a need for the restrictions to be varied.
- 4.10 Once proposals have been drafted by Officers, a report will be brought to the Environment and Regeneration Committee, potentially at a Special Meeting prior to the summer recess. If appropriate, this will seek Committee approval to promote variations to the existing TROs. It should be noted that from this point it is likely take between 6-12 months for the TROs to come into effect depending on whether any objections to the proposals are received.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

Finance

- 5.1 There will be a cost for the surveys which are proposed. The cost of the surveys are currently unknown, however, prices will be sought from 4 suppliers. The surveys will be funded from the Roads Feasibility Budget heading in 2016/17.

Legal

5.2 Legal & Property Services have been consulted regarding the proposed approach.

Human Resources

5.3 There are no HR implications arising from this report.

Equalities

5.4 There are no equality issues arising from this report.

Repopulation

5.5 There are no repopulation implications arising from this report.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

6.1 Consultation has been undertaken with Ward Members regarding the approach to be taken.

7.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None.