

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Members of the Overview Scrutiny Committee agreed to undertake a review of the Decriminalisation of On-Street Parking Enforcement and implementation of Residents Parking Schemes.

1.2 The terms of reference of the Review were:

To examine the effectiveness of the implementation of decriminalisation of on-street parking throughout the Borough and the operational experience of such to date (including financial aspects).

To examine all aspects of the proposed revised Residents' Parking Schemes, including the public demand for additional schemes and requests for discontinuation of current schemes.

To compare the Gravesham experience in both these subjects with the experience of other peer Boroughs.

To issue a report, making recommendation for service improvements, to the Cabinet.

1.3 The context in which the review was undertaken was the devolution of parking enforcement to local authorities under the 1991 Road Traffic Act and Statutory Instrument 1999 No. 3314 which came into force on 4th January 2000.

1.4 A number of evidence gathering meetings were held from February to April 2002. A total of 9 witnesses were interviewed representing Gravesham Borough Council, Kent County Council, Thanet District Council, Medway Council, Peacock Street Neighbourhood Association and Wellington Street Residents Association.(Notes of these evidence gathering meetings, which have been agreed with the parties concerned, are attached at Appendix 1)

1.4 The recommendations to the Cabinet are:-

1.5.1. **Review all current waiting restrictions to identify those which are no longer needed and where additional restrictions are required.**

1.5.2. **The management of on and off-street parking be consolidated under a single department within Engineering Services**

1.5.3. **Move towards flexible working between parking inspectors and parking attendants as soon as possible so as to take account of the introduction of pay and display within the Council's car parks**

1.5.4. **Investigate the introduction of Controlled Parking Zones within Gravesend Town Centre, which could combine proposed residents parking schemes with on street pay and display.**

- 1.5.5. Allow the purchasers of Resident Parking Scheme Permits to park free of charge in Council owned car parks which have a Pay and Display regime at night subject to limitation.**
- 1.5.6. Prioritise the use of the revenue from on-street parking to provide sufficient parking attendants to enforce effectively current and immediate future parking restrictions.**
- 1.5.7. Introduce an annual visitors permit on a 1 per household basis at a cost of 50% of a residents permit as an alternative to the purchase of daily tickets.**
- 1.5.8. Introduce the block sale of visitors permits to Health Organisations for use by their peripatetic members/staff when visiting clients within Gravesham**
- 1.5.9. Consultation on petitions for existing and future residents parking schemes to be Ward Member led, who will determine, in consultation with Engineering Services, the best consultation method to use. Make the general requirement to be a positive response in excess of 50% of the respondents to any consultation document before the petition goes to the Joint Transportation Board for decision.. All requests by way of petition which have been submitted to the Council and are awaiting consideration to be processed on this basis as soon as possible, with a time-table to be submitted to the Joint Transportation Board for Member agreement.**