

**Report to:** Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment

**Date of meeting:** 20 July 2015

**By:** Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

**Title:** Bexhill Parking Review

**Purpose:** To consider the sites in Bexhill where formal parking restrictions have been requested and identify the most appropriate way to take them forward.

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**RECOMMENDATIONS:** The Lead Member is recommended to:

- (1) Approve the re-assessment of outstanding requests for parking restrictions in Bexhill to identify those sites that will contribute to the reduction of an identified road safety issue; and
  - (2) Approve the progression of sites identified as being a top priority within the resources available.
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## **1 Background Information**

1.1 At the Lead Member meeting of 9 June 2014 two reports were considered following petitions relating to parking in the Bexhill area requesting East Sussex County Council to:

- Extend the Prohibition of Motor Caravans restriction to include West Parade; and
- Review the parking in the Collington Area of Bexhill with a view to introducing further parking restrictions.

The wider issue of parking in Bexhill was discussed at length and the resolution was made to:

- Request the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport to undertake a parking review across the whole of Bexhill within the current financial year.

## **2 Supporting Information**

2.1 The implementation of parking restrictions is a time consuming and expensive process. East Sussex County Council, as the local highway authority, has the power to implement restrictions on the public highway, subject to the requirements of the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984. It is therefore the working practice of the Road Safety Team to undertake Parking Reviews by area, within the availability of resources.

2.2 Lewes District and the two Boroughs of Hastings and Eastbourne are covered by Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) schemes. Reviews are undertaken on a regular basis in conjunction with the Parking Team. These reviews are funded by the revenue generated by the Controlled Parking Zones.

2.3 At present, Rother and Wealden Districts have not adopted CPE and funding to implement any parking restrictions must be found from the Road Safety revenue budget. The enforcement of parking restrictions in these areas remains the responsibility of Sussex Police. Sussex Police have indicated that the enforcement of parking restrictions is not a priority for them and would only be undertaken at a local level 'if a significant safety matter arises and where dangerous obstruction and repeated parking on double yellow lines occur'.

2.4 Parking restrictions are funded from the Traffic Management element of the Road Safety Revenue budget, currently £65,000. This budget covers the implementation of new traffic signs and road markings, traffic surveys, disabled bays, reflector posts, bollards and other small scale schemes identified through work with the local parish and town councils.

2.5 A meeting with Bexhill County Councillors and Rother District Council Members was held on 30 June 2015 to discuss the wider issues of parking in the district. The position of Sussex Police was discussed and the implications this will have in terms of priority and resources that would be committed by the County explained.

2.6 As the level of enforcement that Sussex Police will devote to parking restrictions within Rother is minimal, to the degree that there is no effective enforcement regime, it is unreasonable to commit limited public resources to the management of parking restrictions within the district. It is therefore proposed to only prioritise requests for parking restrictions within Rother if they will positively contribute to the reduction of an identified road safety issue.

2.7 A separate Lead Member report considers the pressure being placed on the Road Safety Team by the level of enquiries and the number of outstanding schemes. This report looks at the relative priorities of their workload and makes recommendations about how the limited resources should be committed to achieve the greatest outcome in terms of benefit to all road users.

2.8 It is therefore proposed to review all outstanding requests for parking restrictions within Bexhill in line with the recommendations made in the Road Safety Priorities Report. The report recommends that sites will only be considered for parking restrictions if;

1. There is an identified road safety issue relating to the presence of parked vehicles.
2. Any restrictions imposed are likely to be self-enforcing.
3. Where there is no crash history a site inspection undertaken by an appropriately qualified officer identifies a specific road safety issue.

### **3. Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations**

3.1 There are presently a total of 269 individual sites identified for investigation as part of a Bexhill Parking review. In light of the wider consideration of the priorities of the Road Safety Team and the level of enforcement that can be expected from Sussex Police, the Lead Member is recommended to agree to identify those sites that will positively contribute to road safety and prioritise these within the available resources.

#### **RUPERT CLUBB**

#### **Director of Communities, Economy and Transport**

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#### LOCAL MEMBERS

Councillors Earl, Ensor, Phillips and Clark.

#### BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None