

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee:	Environment and Transportation Select Committee
Date of meeting:	8 November 2011
Report Title:	Parking on Grass Verges, Footpaths and Pavements
Reference:	3402
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. This report is to inform members of the Select Committee of the Economy, Transport & Environment Department's proposal to commence a review of the current policy regarding 'Parking on Grass Verges, Footpaths and Pavements'.
- 1.2. It is anticipated that the findings of the review and any recommended revisions to the policy will be brought to a future meeting of this Select Committee.

2. Contextual Information

- 2.1. The County Council, as a Highway Authority, is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of all roads, pavements and verges which form part of the public highway and are maintainable at public expense. People and vehicles have a legal right of way to pass along the public highway, but technically have no legal right to park vehicles on the highway. However, it has been an accepted practice for decades, that vehicles do park on the highway as off-street parking capacity clearly does not meet the high demand for vehicular parking. The County therefore, has for many years had a policy outlining the systematic approach it takes with respect to dealing with vehicular parking on grass verges, footpaths and pavements.
- 2.2. The current County Council policy relating to vehicle parking was adopted by the Executive Member for Environment in November 2008. The volume of on-street parking in residential areas is on an upward trend which will continue as car ownership increases and planning/transport policy restricts provision of

off-street parking. The scale of the problem is increasing and it is unrealistic to expect the Highway Authority to provide a solution to all the vehicular parking problems caused on the highway network in residential areas.

2.3. Since the adoption of the current policy in 2008 several factors around parking issues in residential areas have changed, including:

- greater demand for parking space on the public highway;
- increased awareness of green spaces being seen as an amenity area;
- changes in planning law abolishing parking standards for new developments;
- the Police Authority's reduced ability to deal with obstructions on the highway due to other policing pressures; and
- reduced highway funding from central government resulting in reduced ability to provide possible solutions to on-street parking problems.

Other issues such as the Localism Bill need to be explored in relation to opportunities in developing greater community involvement and ownership to provide self help.

2.4. It is therefore intended that a review of the existing policy is undertaken with wider investigation into liaison with other bodies. For example, the review will seek to identify best practice from other highway authorities, liaise with the police and take into account issues such as safety, obstruction and damage to the highway.

2.5. The purpose of the review is to refresh the 'Parking on Verges, Footpaths and Pavements' policy to ensure it is fit for purpose. It will aim to focus the limited resources available for dealing with parking issues to deliver the greatest benefits for the community.

3. E & T Select Committee

3.1. If members of the E&T Select Committee wished to offer views or comments that would assist the review, or questions that you would like answered in the review, they would be gratefully received and investigated as part of the review.

3.2. If the Select Committee's comments/questions are collated by the Committee's scrutiny officer these can be forwarded to the department for action.

4. Proposed Review Timetable

- 4.1. It is envisaged that the review will be carried out during the 2011/12 winter period with the intention of reporting back to the Environment & Transportation Select Committee with initial findings in Spring 2012.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1. That it is an appropriate time to review the County Council's policy for 'Parking on Grass Verges, Footpaths and Pavements'.
- 5.2. That ETE officers report back to this Select Committee on its interim findings in Spring 2012.

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

Document

Location

None

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

1.1. EIA will be considered in the review of the policy

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1. n/a

3. Climate Change:

a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

No significant effect

b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

No significant impact