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**TITLE:        PARKING ENFORCEMENT**

Committee: Operational Services Committee

Date:         13 September 2021

Author:      Director, Operations

[W63]

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1.0    ISSUE

1.1    Proposals to reduce anti-social parking across the district.

2.0    RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1    Members are requested to:

- i)      support the pilot scheme to integrate community-based enforcement of speeding, anti-social and illegal parking as detailed in paragraph 4.3 under Section 38 of the Police and Crime Act 2017.
- ii)     review the outcome of the pilot scheme and make further recommendations (if appropriate) by October 2022.
- iii)    support the proposals by Cambridgeshire Police to target identified 'hot spots' in the District with more effective on street enforcement in 2021/22.
- iv)    review the effectiveness of the activity outlined in 2.1 (iii) by April 2022.
- v)     not to implement CSAS in East Cambridgeshire (subject to a further review by October 2022).

3.0    BACKGROUND

3.1    The Council on 22 October 2020 (Agenda Item 7(i)) agreed a motion in relation to parking enforcement. (See Background Papers).

In summary. The Council agreed to:

- Endorse a commitment to free car parking in its off street town centre car parks.
- Instruct officers to engage with the Police on the provision of a dedicated car parking enforcement resource for the District and/or effective implementation of CSAS (Community Safety Accreditation Scheme).
- Report back to Finance and Assets Committee (January 2021).

3.2    Finance and Assets Committee on 25 January, 2021 (ref. Agenda Item 3) received a further report by the Director, Operations which recommended to Operational Services Committee the implementation of CSAS subject to agreement by the Chief Constable, (See Background Papers) and agreed to engage with the Chief Constable on the implementation under Section 38 of the Police and Crime Act 2017. It is important to note that whilst the Council's Operational Services Committee is

responsible for car parking enforcement issues the Council does not have any on street car parking enforcement powers. Those powers rest with the Police.

**4.0 ARGUMENT/OPTIONS**

4.1 Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) is a scheme administered by the Police enabling the Chief Constable to bestow some Police powers to accredited individuals to deal with a range of issues, crucially not car parking enforcement. Although case studies in other areas have shown the value of CSAS especially the adoption of the 'Four E's approach – Engage, Explain, Encourage and Enforce', it is not recommended to proceed with CSAS at this time.

4.2 Section 38 of the Police and Crime Act 2017 permits the Constabulary to bestow powers to volunteers acting on the Police Service Volunteers' (PSV) behalf, including the power to issue car parking enforcement Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs).

Although Finance and Assets Committee were advised (based on the best information from the Constabulary at the time) on 25 January 2021 that these powers could be bestowed on Council employees, subsequent legal clarification has shown this not to be the case because of the potential conflict of interest. Although this potentially reduces the scope of the use of these powers nevertheless this remains the most effective way of improving on street enforcement across the district.

4.3 There is an opportunity, supported in principle by the Chief Constable, to develop and implement a District wide pilot scheme to create a new PSV role of Road Safety Volunteers integrating current community-based activities such as Speed Watch into a formal arrangement supported by training (based on the Four E's) to include enforcement of on street car parking as well as speeding. In practical terms, this would give the new Road Safety Volunteers new powers for speeding, rather than just the letter through the post as per the Speed Watch system. This pilot would also allow the Road Safety volunteers to be conferred with powers by the Chief Constable to deal with anti-social/dangerous or illegal parking where other avenues such as driver education messaging has failed. This pilot would last for 12 months and would be reviewed by the Operational Services Committee in consultation with partners at the appropriate time.

4.4 The Council has consistently expressed their support for the employment of dedicated resources for on street car parking enforcement. This is not supported by the Chief Constable given the proposed reduction in PCSO numbers and the requirement for him to deploy these resources according to operational priority.

Nevertheless, the Leader of the Council through the Police and Crime Commissioner's officer has continued to lobby for targeted activity in the 'hot spots' for anti-social car parking. The Police have proposed to provide some ongoing resources to underpin and support the new volunteer enforcement arrangements using current legislation to target 'hot spots' supported by extensive publicity to deter and reduce future infringements. The location and regularity of these operations will be determined by the Police but in consultation with the Director, Operations. This Committee will review the effectiveness of these operations by April 2022.

4.5 The initiatives detailed above provides a complete approach to tackling illegal on street parking, speeding and breeches of car parking restrictions. The Police will

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provide ongoing resources during the year to tackle illegal parking “hot spots” (e.g. obstruction, staying over time) through their own powers. In addition to that Cambridgeshire Constabulary will develop an East Cambs pilot of the new Road Safety Volunteer post, training and equipping them to deal with a range of road safety issues and support them with training and equipment which will empower and enable the trained volunteers to collect evidence of vehicle abuse for the Police to enforce.

### 5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT/Carbon Impact Assessment

5.1 Approx. £250 per trained volunteer to include training, uniform etc.

5.2 The Police will submit a bid to the Road Safety Partnership to fund the home office approved, legally enforceable machines to capture illegal activity

5.3 An Equality Impact Assessment is not required.

5.4 A Carbon Impact Assessment is not required.

### 6.0 APPENDICES

6.1 None

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Background Documents	Location	Contact Officer
Council 22 October 2020 (Agenda Item 7(ii)) Finance & Assets Committee 28 January 2021 (Agenda Item 7)	Room 101B The Grange Ely	Jo Brooks Director, Operations (01353) 665555 E-mail: jo.brooks@eastcambs.gov.uk