

Information

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for County Councillors

From:	Bev Norman – Strategic Manager Traffic Management and Road Safety
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Date:	5 November 2018
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To:	All County Councillors
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County wide Parking Review

Traffic, congestion and parking have become an increasing issue in Somerset over recent years. This is evidenced by the increase in concerns raised about the issues caused by inconsiderate parking, the availability of parking space, and requests for disabled parking spaces.

Parking restriction requests have been dealt with on a piecemeal basis for many years and there is no consistency within individual towns, Districts or across the County as a whole.

In order to address these concerns it is proposed to carry out a comprehensive review of each towns on-street parking controls on a rolling programme, looking at each community in turn to ensure a fair balance between the needs of residents, businesses and visitors. Consideration will also be given to ensuring safety; keeping the key routes free of congestion and the appropriateness of existing restrictions;

A full consultation exercise for each town will take place with all stakeholders (District, Town/Parish Councils) and the community to identify all issues. In addition existing evidence and feedback issues will be collected and used where appropriate. Feedback from the initial consultation will inform any draft design for further consultation.

We have identified 5 areas below that will be part of the first review and these will take place concurrently:-

Burnham and Highbridge, Chard, Minehead, Taunton, Wells

The remainder listed below will follow but are in no particular order but will depend on demand, circumstances and resources:-

Axbridge and Cheddar, Bridgwater, Castle Cary, Crewkerne, Dunster, Frome, Glastonbury and Street, Ilminster, Langport and Somerton,

Porlock, Shepton Mallet, Wedmore, Wellington, Williton and Watchet, Wincanton, Yeovil, Other rural communities as required.

This County wide parking review will be funded initially from income generated from any surplus through the parking services account. However, when introducing new parking schemes we will need to ensure that they are self-financing. Charges may therefore have to be made for on-street parking in the key retail and tourist areas.

Implication for other workstreams:

Resources to support the development and implementation of the Parking Review will be made available by refocussing existing traffic engineering resources.

Local SCC Traffic Engineers will no longer deal with individual and very local traffic engineering requests that benefit a small number of individuals, including requests for new or amendments to existing signing, lining, speed limits, HGV's restrictions, disabled parking bays etc but focus on those schemes which have the greatest benefit. These minor requests will be included in the wider parking review for the area and form part of the evidence base for road safety and congestion issues.

For more information please contact:	Bev Norman Strategic Manager Traffic Management and Road Safety B2W County Hall 0300 123 2224 Parking@somerset.gov.uk
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