



CABINET

5TH JUNE 2014

AGENDA ITEM (9)

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE COUNCIL'S CAR PARKS

Accountable Member	Councillor C Hancock Cabinet Member for Enterprise and Partnerships
Accountable Officer	Monica Stephens Head of Customer Services 01285 623000 monica.stephens@cotswold.gov.uk

Purpose of Report	To seek approval for the investment of capital identified within the Medium Term Financial Strategy, for improvements to the Council's car parks.
Recommendation(s)	<p>(a) That the commencement of the tender of works for the Forum Car Park improvements be approved;</p> <p>(b) that the replacement of Pay and Display machines, to be funded from the existing capital budget, be approved;</p> <p>(c) that the Strategic Director (Environment), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Enterprise and Partnerships, be authorised to award a contract for improvement works in The Forum Car Park, Cirencester, subject to budget;</p> <p>(d) that a detailed programme of car park developments be prepared, and quotations obtained, for improvements across the remainder of the Council's car parks, to be rolled out over an approximate period of three years, with a further report to be submitted to a future Meeting of the Cabinet to seek an additional capital allocation.</p>
Reason(s) for Recommendation(s)	<p>The Parking Strategy 2010 identifies that a number of the Council's car parks require improvement to design, access and environment. The recommendations will allow some of the actions relating to car park improvements within the Strategy to be achieved.</p> <p>The detailed programme of car park development will develop proposals for remaining car parks, as well as research alternative ways to pay, and decked car park options for Cirencester.</p>

Ward(s) Affected	All
Key Decision	Yes
Recommendation to Council	No

Financial Implications	<p>The Medium Term Financial Strategy, approved by the Council on 27th February 2014, included a provision of £1,105,000 for new capital projects in 2014/15, part of which was earmarked for investment in car park improvements.</p> <p>A procurement process will follow for the proposed improvement works in The Forum Car park. The design consultants provided cost estimates and, when quotations are obtained, they will be compared with the design consultant's estimates which will give assurance that the costs are realistic.</p> <p>The replacement of twenty-nine Pay and Display machines across the District will cost an estimated £150,000. The Council's Capital Programme includes provision for this investment.</p>
Legal and Human Rights Implications	None
Environmental and Sustainability Implications	<p>Replacement Pay and Display machines will be solar powered to reduce electricity and therefore carbon usage.</p> <p>Sustainable products and design will be used where possible during car park improvements.</p>
Human Resource Implications	None
Key Risks	Access to and within The Forum Car Park is poor, although recent relining has improved the circulation space - a poorly laid out car park increases the risk of vehicular accidents to both other vehicles and the public.
Equalities Analysis	Specialist users were considered within the Parking Strategy and regard has been made to the specific needs of disabled persons utilising the car park. There has been consultation on designs with the Disability Access Group, which resulted in significant changes to initial proposals to ensure the needs of disabled persons is met.
Related Decisions	<p>Council - Parking Strategy - 19th October 2010</p> <p>Cabinet - Car Park Charges and Parking Service Improvements - 13th October 2011</p> <p>Council - Budget 2014/15 - 27th February 2014</p>
Background Documents	None
Appendices	Appendix 'A' - Plan of new design proposals for The Forum Car Park, Cirencester
Performance Management Follow Up	Car park income and expenditure is reported to the appropriate Strategic Director and Cabinet Member on a monthly and to Members as part of quarterly monitoring.
Options for Joint Working	There is now a joint service delivering Parking Strategy for both this Council and West Oxfordshire District Council.

Background Information

1. Background

1.1 Investment in the Council's car parks by implementing a programme of car park improvements is a top task for the Council for 2014/15 and the Council's Parking Strategy, which was adopted in 2010, sets out actions to improve and sustain the Parking Service. The Strategy identified that the following car parks would benefit from improvements to access, design and environmental quality:-

- The Beeches, Cirencester;
- The Brewery, Cirencester;
- The Forum, Cirencester;
- The Old Station, Cirencester;
- Queen Street, Cirencester;
- The Waterloo, Cirencester;
- Church Street, Tetbury;
- West Street, Tetbury.

1.2 In addition, a number of other car parks need some minimal improvements, such as re-lining and changes to improve provision for the disabled.

1.3 In 2013, the Council commissioned consultants; SKM to redesign The Forum Car Park, Cirencester, and to produce a generic design which could then be applied to all its car parks as part of a rolling improvement programme.

1.4 There are some complex issues relating to The Forum Car Park as it is a scheduled ancient monument site which limits invasive ground works to protect any historic structures or remains that may exist underneath. In addition, the road network and the need to gain access to and egress from the site safely and without impacting negatively on traffic flow, are particular issues in this location.

2. Forum Car Park, Cirencester - Improvements Proposed

2.1 Following consultation with the Cirencester Parking Partnership, the Disability Access Group and the Highways Authority, designs were finalised for improvements to The Forum Car Park, Cirencester. A copy of the new design proposals is attached at **Appendix 'A'**.

2.2 The key changes proposed to The Forum Car Park are:-

- the closure of the existing entrance, with a new entrance and exit located at the point of current exit;
- alterations to the position of the boundary wall opposite the public toilets/mobility shop, to improve safety for pedestrians and to avoid repeated wall damage by lorries accessing the rear of the Marks & Spencer store;
- an improved layout and spacing to comply with guidance and to ensure safe vehicular and pedestrian movements;
- an increase in the number of disabled parking bays to comply with guidance (this follows consultation with Disabled Access Group);
- an improved pedestrian access within, and to and from, the car park (including a ramp for disabled users);
- an improved visual appearance and user experience - the boundary wall to be replaced with metal railings (which will also improve visibility and security), removal of recycling banks, improved signage, resurfacing, removal and replacement of dead/dying trees and improved landscaping;
- the replacement of drainage prior to resurfacing;
- an extension of maximum stay period from three hours to four hours to encourage blue badge holders and to provide a longer length of stay than is available on-street;

- consideration will be given to the time of year and possible phasing of works to mitigate the impact on the loss of spaces in Cirencester and to reduce any negative impact on the town overall;
- regular updates on the development process will be provided via the Council's Web Site.

3. Replacement of Pay and Display Machines

3. In 2011, following procurement via a framework agreement, Metric Group Inc. was selected as provider for new Pay and Display machines, which are card enabled and solar powered. These were initially installed in the Brewery Car Park, Cirencester as part of a wider programme of service changes in that location.

3.2 Installation in other car parks was deliberately delayed as it was hoped replacement could be tied in with larger scale car park improvements. This would avoid the installation of new machines and their removal and reinstallation at a later date when car parks are redesigned.

3.3 The existing machines remained in place in the other car parks and have now exceeded their anticipated life of ten years, having been installed in 2001. Unfortunately, the machines are now in such a condition that they are not economic to maintain.

3.4 With a rolling programme of car park improvements likely to take around three years to deliver, it will not be possible to continue current service provision with the existing machines. Urgent replacement is therefore required. The design work conducted so far has indicated that, in most cases, our Pay and Display machines are well-located and therefore future improvement works would simply require the machines to be lifted out and then replaced in the same locations.

3.5 £150,000 has already been identified within the Council's Capital Programme for replacement Pay and Display machines. Prices have not been updated within the framework agreement and the total cost to install twenty-nine new Pay and Display machines across the District will be £149,147.

3.6 At its Meeting on 13th October 2011, the Cabinet agreed to award a contract to Metric Plc for the installation of new Pay and Display Machines in the Brewery Car Park. At that time the report noted:-

'If the Council agrees to install new pay and display machines in the Brewery Car Park only at this time, the Council would be able to purchase the remainder of the machines at the price Metric listed within the ESPO framework agreement, until such time as that agreement is amended. A report could be submitted to the Cabinet for recommendation to the Council to allocate capital to enable the roll-out of new machines across all Council car parks, at a later date, without having to recommence the procurement process. Whilst the ESPO Framework agreement price would still stand, Metric applied a further discount in their tender for the Council, which may not be applied if the remainder of machines are purchased at a later date.'

4. Car Park Development

4.1 In line with the aims and objectives of the Parking Strategy, and following feedback from consultations, the detailed programme will look at alternative payment options, which would aim to provide the customer with greater payment choice. This would include a review of Pay on Foot (barrier controlled car parks), as well as identifying any appropriate location(s) for decked car parks in Cirencester.

4.2 Officers are currently pursuing the installation of two electric vehicle rapid chargers for potential placement in The Beeches Car Park, Cirencester and Old Market Way Car Park, Moreton-in-Marsh. The Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) has approved funding of £70,000 for the installation of the chargers. The Council will not be required to cover any of the costs for this service provision.

(END)